

North Sea oil promises trade balance this year

Rapid increases being made in output of North Sea oil are expected to put Britain's trade in balance this year, the Government announced yesterday. By 1980 the country should be self-sufficient in oil, eliminating an import bill which last year amounted to almost £4,000m. Total possible estimated reserves in oil discoveries in British waters have risen from 2,290m to 2,500m. The Government expects revenues of £4,250m a year throughout the 1980s.

Production making rapid increase

by Roger Vielvoeck

North Sea oil production made another spectacular jump during March to an average of 20,000 barrels a day from the 32,000 barrels produced daily during the previous month. And according to Dr J. Dickson Mabon, Minister of State for Energy, output was running at 50,000 barrels a day by the end of the month.

Output in March was at a rate equivalent to 35m tonnes a year—well over a third of the country's current oil consumption. Dr Mabon said all the indicators suggested that Britain would achieve its upgraded target of producing between 70m and 85m tonnes this year, at about \$14 a barrel, this would be worth £1,500m.

At a press conference to introduce the Government's latest estimates of oil and gas resources, Dr Mabon said the rapid increases in North Sea oil output should put the country's trade in balance this year and produce a trade surplus in 1973.

The prospects from the North Sea were bright. The balance of payments benefits in 1976, he said, reached about £1,000m and the Government was beginning to receive a small but growing income from royalties.

During 1976 the net oil import bill was almost £4,000m despite North Sea production of about 570m tonnes. Dr Mabon said the import bill would be eliminated completely by 1980 when North Sea production would make Britain self-sufficient.

Revenue from taxes and royalties on both oil and gas would rise to a total of £5,500m in 1980. By this date companies would be paying large amounts of petroleum revenue tax (PRT) and the Government could expect to receive about

£4,250m a year revenue throughout the 1980s, compared with previous estimates of £3,500m a year.

According to the Government's estimates, output from the North Sea next year will be between 50m and 70m tonnes, rising to 80-90m tonnes in 1978, to 90m-110m tonnes in 1980 and 100m-120m tonnes in 1981.

"We remain on target for self-sufficiency in 1980 with last year's delays being more than made up for by a faster than expected build-up of production over the coming two years", Dr Mabon said.

Two fields, British Petroleum's Forties and the Occidental Group's Piper, continue to produce the bulk of Britain's oil.

Forties production averaged about 405,000 barrels a day during March. Output from the fourth production platform on the field began earlier this week and BP expects supplies to peak at 500,000 barrels a day by the autumn.

Output from the Piper field has grown even faster. During March it averaged 115,000 barrels a day and the figure is set to rise to 190,000 barrels a day in April from only seven experimental wells last year.

The Government's report says that total possible estimated reserves of oil in present discoveries in British waters have risen by 210m tonnes to 2,500m tonnes. Total estimated reserves for these waters remain between 3,000m to 4,500m tonnes, though the higher end of the range now includes an allowance for areas not yet designated but expected to fall to Britain.

Development of the Oil and Gas Resources of the United Kingdom 1977—a report to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Energy. (Stationery Office, £2.25.)



Work being completed in Oslo on the valve to stop the oil escape from Brava.

Repair team spends five hours on platform before being forced off

From Craig Seton
Stavanger, April 26

A repair team spent a precious five hours on board the Brava oil platform in the Norwegian Ekofisk field today, making the first significant progress towards controlling the rogue well which blew out last Friday.

They were taken off again when the wind dropped and dangerous fumes built up.

It was learnt late tonight that the team succeeded in bolting on to the riser pipe a blow-out protector valve which was originally half-secured, but that the valve itself was not completely assembled.

The oil slick from the Ekofisk disaster is now in two sections, a thick portion three miles long and three miles wide, surrounded by a thin film of oil 10 miles wide and 15 to 20 miles long. Two skimming vessels which tried to collect some of the oil today ran into technical difficulties this afternoon, and only 20 tons of the estimated 12,000 tons spilled into the sea was reported to have been collected.

Yesterday's high winds and heavy seas calmed overnight, and shortly after dawn the repair team, believed to consist of six men, strode into their protective clothing across a gangway erected from Choctaw, an anchored derrick vessel alongside Brava, to start their work.

Mr Gordon Goring, Norwegian director of the Phillips Petroleum Company, which operates the Ekofisk complex, said that three employees, American field supervisors, were among those who went on board. Two of the others were Mr Asgar "Boots" Hansen and Mr Richard Hargrove, of the "blow-out" team from Houston, Texas, led by Mr Paul "Red" Adair, which has made its reputation for capping oil gushers throughout the world.

As the weather change forced the men to halt their work, production at the two other platforms one and a half miles away, which had resumed early this morning, shut down again as a safety measure.

This afternoon Captain Oeyvind Hollekim of the firefighting vessel Seaway Falcon, which has been standing alongside Brava pumping water aboard to keep the escaping oil cool, told me in a ship-to-shore radio link of the day's activities.

"We had a meeting on Choctaw and 'Red' Adair's men think they can shut off the flow tomorrow", he said. "They should know—they have done it hundreds of times before."

"Early this morning we stopped spraying and the men went aboard Brava. Some equipment in baskets was put on by crane and we could see the men working and cleaning up around the blow-out pipe."

"Then the wind dropped and oil started falling back on to the platform, so they had to come off. But things are looking good."

Butter price drop will be only brief

British housewives will soon pay about 5p a lb less for butter as a result of Britain's acceptance on Monday of a compromise package of higher EEC farm prices. Increased support prices to dairy farmers are, however, expected to erode the savings margin before long. British farmers, food processors and consumer bodies have, in the main, condemned the new EEC deal. They see it as a defeat for Mr John Silkin, the British Minister of Agriculture.

House of Lords rejects car seat-belt Bill

The Road Traffic Seat Belts Bill, making the wearing of seat belts compulsory, was rejected in the House of Lords last night by 55 votes to 53 and now dies. A similar Bill was given a substantial majority in the Commons last session, but failed to reach the statute book because of pressure on the Government's timetable. Yesterday it was introduced by Lord Abercrombie from the Liberal benches, as a private member's Bill. Parliamentary report, page 10

Inside Robben Island

In a move to dispel allegations that it is running a "Devil's Island" for political prisoners, the South African Government has allowed the local and international press a visit to Robben Island, its maximum security jail. With no newspapers, radio or television its inmates are effectively sealed off from the outside world.

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Sign of free quarks

Physicists at Stanford University, California, have measured electrical charges of a third on heavy metal. It could be the first evidence for the existence of free quarks, elementary particles which had been believed to exist only in groups of two or three. Science Report, page 10

Pay fear divided: Mr Joseph Gormley, the miners' president, dismissed as "poppycock" fears that a return to free collective bargaining would lead to a wages explosion.

Blacklist threat: North Sea oil rigs and platforms that accept British helicopters face blacklisting by the National Union of Seamen and the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association.

Pensions: A ten-page Special Report to mark the annual conference of the National Association of Pension Funds which opens at Torquay tomorrow.

Holyhead-Dun Laoghaire: A three-page Special Report on the inaugural sailing of the St Columba.

11-13

Letters: On preserving the British archive, from Professor Margaret Cowling, and Dr D. W. Rhind: the Civil Service and the TUC; from Mr Gerry Flanagan; and on the bombing of a car in Northern Ireland, from Mr J. La Brie and others.

Leading articles: Dr Coggan's list to Rome; Food prices: King Hussein in Washington.

Features, pages 16 and 18: Peter Walker's hopes for a unified Britain; Mario Modiano on the US; Turkey hopes to persuade the US to lift the arms embargo; Guest column by Lucy Mair: cookery by Katie Stewart.

Obituary, page 19: Sir Daniel McGarvey, Professor

Dr Magnus Pyke's vision of a brave new electronic era; Sport, pages 8-9: The semi-final reviews; Cricket: Australians make first appearance today at Arundel; Racing: Programme for flat and National Hunt meetings.

Arts, page 14: The Passion (Coriolan) Theatre; Alan Coren and Michael Church on television; Patrick J. Smith on Lenin; Kirschner's opera from a novel by Sir Peter Hall; Northern Loreland on the Welsh National Opera.

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HOME NEWS

Stockpiling begins as Ulster prepares for 'loyalist' strike

From Christopher Walker
Belfast

People in many parts of Northern Ireland have begun to stockpile essential foods in anticipation of another crippling general strike by "loyalists" similar to that which wrecked the power-sharing Executive three years ago. Although precise details of the protest are being kept secret, it is expected to begin next Monday after the expiry of a seven-day ultimatum to the Government by the United Unionist Action Council, an umbrella grouping of loyalist bodies.

The ultimatum was published yesterday in the Belfast News Letter.

The protest is directed at re-establishing the Stormont parliament largely in the form it held when abolished in 1972. The loyalists threatening the stoppage have demanded that Mr Mason, Secretary of State, should start a "new offensive against the IRA and take immediate steps to implement the report of the defunct Convention, which advocated a government without power-sharing.

Protestant discontent with direct rule and the Government's security policy has led to much sabre-rattling recently. But the latest threats are being treated seriously by the authorities and by the ordinary people of Ulster.

Mr Mason moved rapidly yesterday to mobilise moderate public opinion against the threatened protest and indicated to local politicians that the Government would be prepared to adopt a much more forceful line against the strikers than that taken in 1974. After a 90-minute meeting with Mr Mason at Stormont, Mr Harry West, leader of the Official Unionists, the largest Protestant party, publicly urged the organisers not to implement their strike threat at present. He said later the weak state of the Northern Ireland economy, high unemployment and the hardships that would result were the main reasons for his opposition.

But there was no indication yesterday that his appeal and a similar statement by Mr Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on Ulster, would succeed in cooling the tempers of the more extreme loyalists on the action council, which represents political parties, paramilitarist groups and the loyal orders. Because of the structure of industry in Ulster the council is influential in most of the main industrial concerns, both public and private.

Mr David Baird, one of the spokesman, said: "Call us to task for criticizing JPs

I do not think Mr West's words will have any effect. I am telling everybody who comes to me to stock up on emergency funds and all necessary commodities, such as baby foods, before next week."

Mr Mason also met delegations from the Alliance and the Social Democratic and Labour parties to discuss the strike threat.

Mr Mason's remarks earlier this week about the grave implications for the Ulster economy were underlined by Mr Concannon, Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office, who emphasised the dangers a strike would pose to investments.

It is understood that there is no possibility of the Government meeting the loyalists' demands. But from now until Tuesday ministers will strive to point up the divisions inside the Protestant community, which numbers a million towards the strike.

A crucial question if the stoppage does begin will be the attitude of the Army and the police, both of whom were criticised in 1974 for not moving more strongly to break the protest in its early days.

Observers recognise that a serious clash with the majority population and attempts to maintain essential services, particularly electricity, would involve a substantial increase in troop levels. There are now 14,000 soldiers in Northern Ireland compared with 17,500 in May, 1974.

Another opponent of the threatened protest who emerged yesterday was Mr Glen Barr, deputy leader of the Vanguard Unionist Party. He was a spokesman for the strikers in 1974 in his position as chairman of the Ulster Loyalist Central Coordinating Committee.

He said last night: "The situation now is quite different from what it was three years ago, and for that reason I oppose the strike, which I am convinced will do more harm than good. I do not think the leaders understand what happened in 1974.

Then there was much more emotional feeling among the Protestant people, and eventually it was the Protestant politicians on the Executive who collapsed and gave us our victory. It was not the British Government, but the politicians who had gone against the very obvious will of the majority who gave in. This time it is a very different kettle of fish and I think the Government will adopt a quite different attitude."

Report on the teaching and examination of modern languages. (The Headmasters' Conference, 29 Gordon Square, London, WC1, £1.) Parliamentary report, page 10

Concern at decrease in language pupils

By a Staff Reporter

Britain cannot afford a rapid decline in the numbers of schoolchildren studying modern languages if she is to compete with her business and industrial competitors abroad, a Headmasters' Conference working party says in a report on modern language teaching, published yesterday.

It shows that between 1970 and 1975 the numbers of pupils taking A level French, German and Spanish fell by almost a third in spite of an increase in most other subjects. French language entrants fell from 25,925 to 17,025; German from 7,520 to 5,516; and Spanish from 2,572 to 1,687.

There had also been a great falling off in the number of pupils taking languages at university, which meant that there was a continuing shortage of good language teachers. The quality of training of young modern language teachers "often leaves much to be desired, and little if anything is being done at present to improve the situation", the report says.

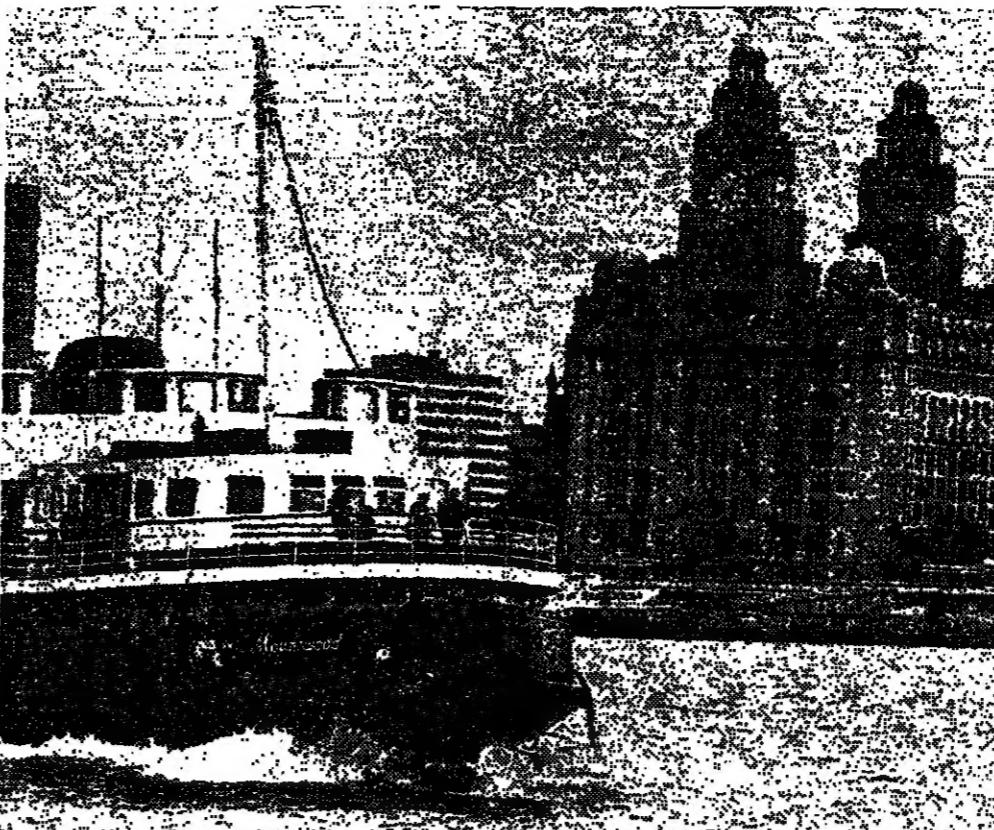
The national need is for lawyers, accountants, diplomats, insurance brokers, industrialists and the like who can speak two languages, the report emphasises. "If we are a nation of shopkeepers, depending on our trade for survival, then we must have representatives who can meet foreign nations on level terms."

But, it says, "we are faced with the indigenous laziness of the Englishman who expects foreigners to learn his language. This leads to the Englishman's reputation for isolation and arrogance."

Industry and commerce seemed to have been slow to sense a need for a more international attitude, the working party says. In the past they had tended to put the cart before the horse by putting employees through crash language courses, which were of dubious permanent value. The report suggests recruiting men and women with a language proficiency and then teaching them business.

Britain's entry into the EEC might have been expected to give all language learning a tremendous boost, but it now looks as though German was in danger of finding itself in the same situation as Latin, the report says. The day of the double linguist in the sixth form is rapidly disappearing in most schools.

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Miners' leader clashes with minister over pay

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Mr Joseph Gormley, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, clashed with Mr Tony Benn, Secretary of State for Industry, yesterday over the need for a renewal of voluntary wage curbs. Mr Gormley dismissed as "poppycock" the government's claim to face "a nuclear barometer" if wages exploded. He added: "Let us forget about stage three."

The minister and the union leader both spoke at the Midland area conference of the miners' union at Blackpool. Mr Varley, an MP sponsored by the miners, said: "If we keep our members, save a bit of money, if we go on together and if we work out a sensible, flexible pay agreement, we shall succeed in laying a solid industrial base for our future."

"The EEC policy halved the rate of inflation. The action we took last year has stabilised the pound. The balance of payments is improving, largely with the help of our energy resources. The industrial strategy that is being worked out by the

Government, trade unions and management, will bring great benefits if given its chance."

"Already it has shown how a £3,000m a year improvement in our balance of payments could be achieved by 1980. Our job now is to implement the strategy, to get that industrial barometer" if wages exploded, "higher real wages, higher living standards, better social services and more jobs."

Mr Gormley appeared unmoved by the minister's remarks. "People want to negotiate in a free world and there is no question of being handed a pot of gold. You have got to negotiate, if you go on together and if we work out a sensible, flexible pay agreement, we shall succeed in laying a solid industrial base for our future."

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Strike call rejected by actors

By Our Arts Reporter

Equity, the actors' union, received several telegrams yesterday rejecting a call for a 24-hour strike made at the union's annual meeting on Monday in an emergency motion protesting about government cuts in the arts.

The latest 24-hour protest had been due to end yesterday morning, but at the last minute the 150 officers decided to continue the action for at least another day.

The new general council, holding its first meeting, was unable to discuss the strike resolution, which was passed overwhelmingly, because of a shortage of business. It will be discussed next week.

Two of the telegrams were from the cast of the West End production of "No Sex Please, We're British", at the Strand Theatre, and "Murder at the Vicarage", at the Fortune.

Monday's meeting also expressed its support for a new campaign established to oppose the cuts.

Protest at Dartmoor intensified

Prison officers at Dartmoor yesterday continued their fight for better living conditions by refusing to carry out supervisory duties.

The latest 24-hour protest had been due to end yesterday morning, but at the last minute the 150 officers decided to continue the action for at least another day.

The Home Office yesterday described as meaningless a decision by the officers to restrict overtime to 10 hours a week because they average 10 hours in the month.

Mr Brian Bennett, chairman of the Dartmoor branch of the Prison Officers' Association, said: "The Home Office completely out of touch with what happens in individual prisons. We are the only people with the full facts."

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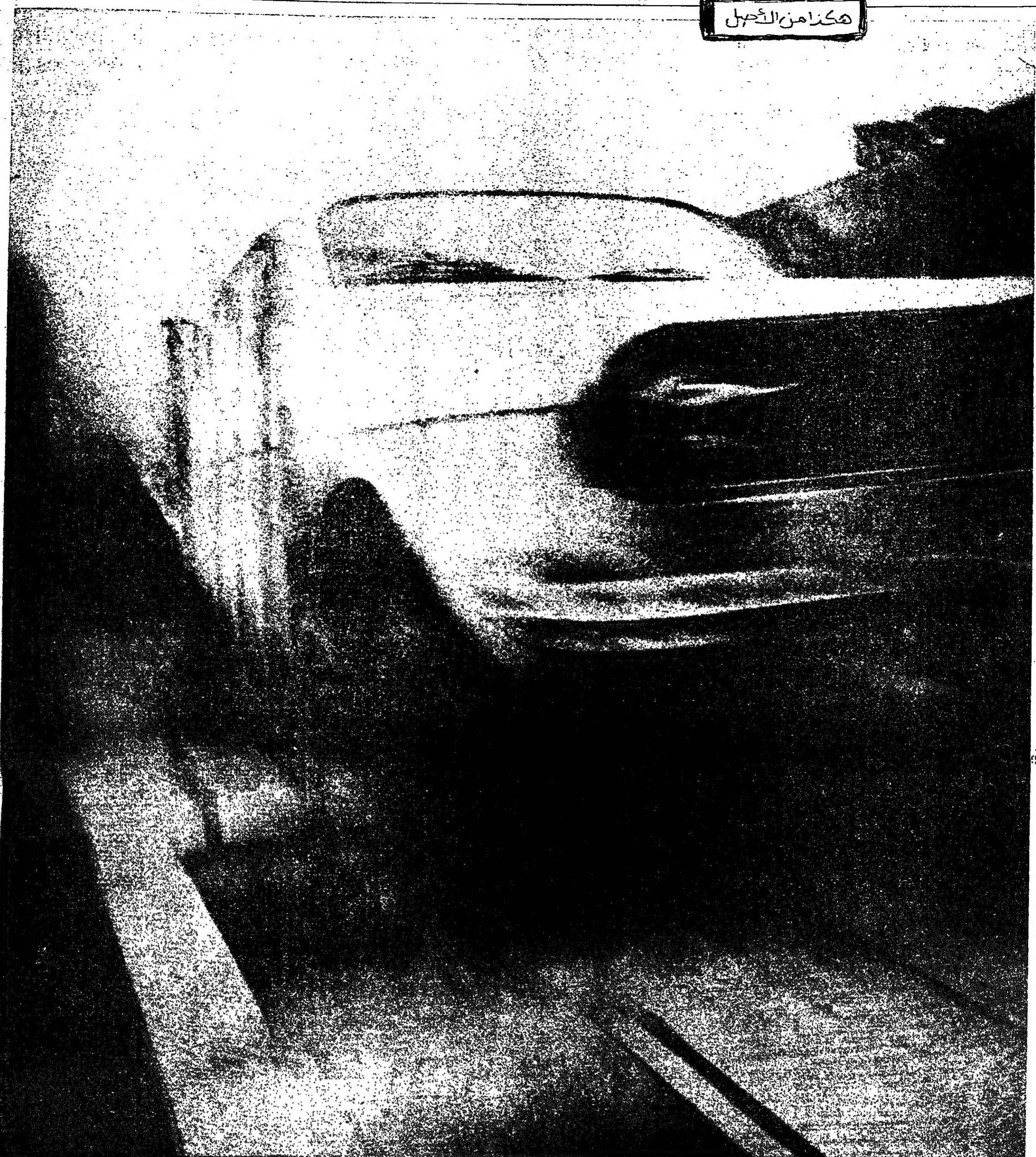
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Two of the telegrams were from the cast of the West End production of "No Sex Please, We're British", at the Strand Theatre, and "Murder at the Vicarage", at the Fortune.

Monday's meeting also expressed its support for a new campaign established to oppose the cuts.

Prison officers at Dartmoor yesterday continued their fight for better living conditions by refusing to carry out supervisory duties.

The latest 24-hour protest had been due to end yesterday morning, but at the last minute the 150 officers decided to continue the action for at least another



Photograph: Gus Wyllie

Going nowhere fast.

This car is doing 70 or so, but it'll never get anywhere. What we're simply doing is testing motor oil performance in a car engine, with the car mounted on one of the dynamometers at our Coryton Research and Technical Service Laboratory. The dynamometer uses rollers that rotate under the vehicle allowing us to test engines and lubricants under all sorts of simulated driving conditions without actually taking cars out on the roads. Very useful, because we can put precise controls on the testing.

We select the latest models from car manufacturers all over Europe for testing at the Coryton labs. We

check our oils for their wear protection, their performance at high temperatures, and their stability against oil shear.

In a going-nowhere run like the one in the photo, we can put an engine through 20,000 miles of motoring conditions of the most punishing kind. It's just one of the jobs we do at Coryton to develop and test automotive lubricants for car owners.

One of the most important developments to come out of Coryton recently is new Mobil Super motor oil.

This is a new multigrade oil specifically meant for today's high revving, hard working engines. It gives first class performance over a wide range of temperatures—it's heavy enough for the hot weather, yet light enough to get you going when it turns cold.

Mobil Super has been on the market only a few weeks, and already it's something of a best seller. The right oil at the right time, it seems.

We're delighted to have developed Mobil Super. Makes us think we are really getting somewhere.

Mobil[®]

HOME NEWS

Blacklisting ultimatum to oil companies over Bristow pilot's strike

From Ronald Faux

Aberdeen
The National Union of Seamen and the Merchant Navy and Airlines Officers' Association told oil companies yesterday that all oil rigs and platforms accepting Bristow helicopters would be "blacklisted" from midnight.

Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, who was in Aberdeen for talks with the Bristow helicopter pilots' strike committee, said there was a danger now of the dispute becoming a threat to North Sea operations and the national economy.

Airport pilots and engineers who are still working accused the British Airline Pilots' Association (Balpa) of using the strike as an excuse to increase its own power.

The spread of the dispute between the pilots on strike at Bristow Helicopters, now represented by Balpa and Mr Alan Bristow, the company chairman, could disrupt supplies of equipment, food and fuels to four oilfields and 14 rigs, which are Bristow's customers. Members of the seamen's union and the merchant navy association crew and command many of the supply vessels.

Union refuses to make Heathrow dispute official

By Christopher Thomas

Labour Reporter

British Airways maintenance engineers at Heathrow remained isolated in their 23-day industrial action yesterday after the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers had refused an appeal to make the dispute official.

The 3,700 men will hold a mass meeting today. If they again decide to continue the action in defiance of the union's instruction there will be a prospect of a gradual drift back to work.

All the 17 maintenance and engineering unions at the airport are against the stoppage.

The action centres on a demand for separate bargaining rights and new shift structures. The AUEW is adamant that it will not agree to the men's negotiating for themselves, but all the unions are willing to discuss shift changes. That would imply a revised system to give better payments.

With maintenance engineers from other unions working normally, the airline is operating long-distance services from Heathrow and three-quarters of flights to Europe.

Mr Hugh Scanlon, AUEW president, emphasized that his union would not be told by anybody whether it should withdraw from established bargaining machinery.

Last night union officials were trying to work out yet another peace formula which could be put to today's mass meeting.

Mr Milne said: "We are not concerned who brings Mr Bristow to the conference table or whether he comes willingly or unwillingly. He has got to be brought there quickly. Balpa cannot afford to lose this dispute nor can the trade union movement. There are enough mavericks in the North Sea without having Bristow join them."

The 12-day strike, which is over the dismissal of a Bristow captain who refused to accept two overseas postings offered to him, has divided company pilots at Aberdeen. Beyond that is the attempt to force Mr Bristow to recognize the union.

Although fuel stocks are now thought to be low because tanker drivers have refused to supply the Bristow base, the 60 pilots still working maintain that they are comfortably meeting all the company's commitments. Fuel was brought by non-union tankers in Aberdeen directly from the Bristow headquarters at Redhill.

Yesterday a group of Bristow pilots and engineers who have refused to strike accused Balpa of deliberately seizing on the dismissal issue to bring about confrontation with Bristow Helicopters.

US refit for QE2 'based' on economics'

From Our Correspondent

Southampton

The Queen Elizabeth 2 is to have her annual refit in an American yard for economic reasons, Cunard said yesterday. It said its decision did not signify dissatisfaction with previous refits by Vosper Thornycroft at Southampton.

The ship is to make her last Atlantic crossing this year on October 29 and will then make winter cruises from the United States.

The refit is due in November. Vosper Thornycroft's shop stewards yesterday expressed dismay and anger.

The local elections 7: Key to power on Merseyside lies in Liberals' hands

By a Staff Reporter

The Liberals hold the key to the elections on May 5 in the Merseyside Metropolitan County. Just as they denied Labour a convincing majority in 1973, they are in a position to prevent the advancing Conservatives from taking control.

Labour holds power with a majority of seven. It has 53 of the 99 council seats. The Conservatives have 28, the Liberals 17 and there is one independent. The Liberals controlled Liverpool after 1973 until Labour overhauled them last year.

The future structure of the county council depends largely on the Liberals' holding most of their 17 seats. They cannot afford to lose more than a handful if they are to achieve their best hope, holding the balance of power.

In spite of confident predictions that it can retain power, the Labour Party, led by Mr William Sefton, is aware of its precarious position. If it loses

four seats it will lose overall control.

The swing to the Conservatives since 1973 in four districts outside Liverpool has been between 3 and 11 per cent, which might put at least 12 Labour seats in danger and allow the Conservatives to overtake them as the largest party.

The likely strength of the Liberal vote is the most difficult to predict. They recently won a local seat from Independent Labour and took half the poll in another, suggesting firm support.

The Liberals' reputation on Merseyside is that of a party that proved the power of "community" politics. Local Liberal leaders became known nationally, and Liverpool Liberals became a model for the party.

If much of the Liberals' strength on Merseyside came from the personalities of their local candidates, the fact that four of the best known, Mr Trevor Jones, Mr David Alton, Mr Cyril Carr and Dr David

Caldwell, the Liberal leader, are not contesting this election might have a serious effect on the party's support.

The Liberals are putting up 78 of the 302 candidates standing for election. The Conservatives are contesting all the seats and Labour will field 93. Other candidates include 19 Communists and three each from the National Front and National Party who might all take votes from Labour.

Mr Caldwell says the Liberals are fighting to control the council, but realistically admit that it is more likely they will hold the balance. He is worried that a handful of Liberal-held seats might fall to the Conservatives, but is confident that the party can make significant gains from Labour and the Conservatives and keep Liberal representation at about 17.

Sir Kenneth Thompson, aged 67, a former junior Conservative minister, who leads the Merseyside Conservatives, is quietly confident of his party's chances of taking control.

Twenty-two wins would give us a majority of one, and we can do it."

Liberal influence was difficult to evaluate, he says. He is conceptions of their role in local politics and sees them as opponents.

Sir Kenneth fears that perhaps no party will have overall control, but says there will be no deals and no "touting" of policies around the parties.

He identified the dominant local issue as transport. He believes local people would be prepared to pay more for bus and train journeys if the service was more reliable. The Conservatives wanted an inner ring road in the centre of Liverpool.

Mr Sefton, a former leader of Liverpool City Council, is widely considered an able leader of the Metropolitan county. He is happy to stand on the Labour Party's record nationally and locally. Apathy will favour the controlling party, he predicted.

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Food price
agitate
the Ashfield
voters

HOME NEWS

Patients ordered about and denied right to choose own doctors in 'restrictive' NHS, congress told

From John Roper
Health Services Correspondent
Eastbourne

The National Health Service has become a restrictive service in which patients are ordered about by professionals, said the congress. Staff have less freedom of choice than under more modern systems and are being limited in their right to choose their doctors, the methods of care, or even to have helpful participation in it, the Royal Society of Health congress in Scarborough was told yesterday.

That view, by Mrs Jean Robinson, former chairman of the Patients' Association, was expressed on the opening day of the congress during a session on the role of the health service. Mrs Robinson said the association receives about a hundred questions or complaints about the service every week.

After the session she said the greatest difficulties occurred in primary care. Although most general practitioners gave adequate care, and some were superb, there were failures in the family doctor service which sometimes resulted in a death that could have been avoided.

Some patients found it almost impossible to get a second opinion and patients were being restricted and their wishes ignored.

For example, a woman who was happy with her own family doctor was not allowed to register her baby with another doctor who she thought had greater child-care experience.

She was obliged to transfer to the second doctor after being told that it would be "embarrassing" for two doctors to attend patients in the same family.

Doctors who make no difficulties about a change are invariably the best, Mrs Robinson said. One patient had been struck off the list because she wanted her baby at home after an unpleasant experience at a hospital confinement.

Because birth in hospital had become medical orthodoxy, families were rejected if they wanted something different. They were regarded as "difficult" and they were punished by doctors.

Mrs Robinson contrasted the British health service system with that in Germany, where a patient is registered with a doctor for three months at a time; and in France, where a patient can see a different doctor any time at his choice. Those trends gave the doctors an incentive to give the best quality care, she said.

Some of the difficulties from the conservative outlook of older members of the medical profession and from the system under which junior hospital doctors largely depend on consultants for advancement in their careers, Mrs Robinson said.

The Department of Health had done nothing to investigate or monitor the quality of family doctor care, she added. Perhaps, she continued, there could be inspectors of medical care to examine patients' records and disclose any wrong or inadequate details.

An increasing difficulty for some patients was that a doctor labelled them, for sometimes trivial reasons, as difficult, neurotic or hysterical, and the label remained with them for the rest of their lives.

Giving the address on smoking and disease at the inaugural meeting, Sir Richard Doll,



Micky, Monty and Maxie, Kodiak bear triplets, out with their mother at Whipsnade Zoo.

Woman who shot husband not guilty of murder

Mrs Valerie Pulling, aged 35, of Haverby Hall, North Thoresby, Lincolnshire, was found not guilty at Lincoln Crown Court yesterday of murdering her husband after years of domination and ill treatment.

She had told the jury that she armed herself with a gun belonging to her husband, Anthony Pulling, aged 36, fearing that she was in for another beating and that he was so drunk that he would not be able

to stop. Only when she thought he was coming for her did she fire the gun.

Mr Justice May told the jury that it was important to assess the case without emotion, but he advised them to acquit if they felt it was not Mrs Pulling's intention to kill her husband or do him really serious injury.

The jury of eight men and four women announced their verdict after being out for just over three hours.

Remand of six weeks in secrets case refused

The journalists, Duncan Campbell, aged 24, of Frankland, Birmingham, and John Nicholas Campbell, Aubrey, 31, of De Beaufort Road, Ilington, London, are both charged with the unauthorized receipt of classified information. John Berry, aged 33, formerly a soldier, and now a van driver, of Alexandra Park Road, Muswell Hill, London, is charged with communicating classified information to unauthorized persons.

Wilson burglary included S Africa paper

Senior detectives are investigating the theft of personal papers and bank statements from the country home of Sir Harold Wilson, at Grange Farm, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. The disappearance of the documents was reported in *The Times* yesterday.

The inquiry is being headed by a superintendent, and has involved Special Branch officers. The police said yesterday that the items stolen included a study document on South Africa. It is believed to name five anonymous promoters of the Club of Tea, the South African publicity organization.

In brief

Mayor's trip to races challenged

Labour councillors in the London borough of Bexley, which has announced the highest rate increase in London, of a quarter, are to question at the council meeting tonight why the mayor of the Tory-controlled council was taken to see the Grand National at the racecourse's expense.

The council has disclosed that the mayor, Mr Agnes Orange, her secretary and his wife were driven in the mayoral car to Aintree at a cost of £50 in wages and petrol.

'Brutal' girl jailed

Jacqueline Salmon, aged 19, of Hall Place, Paddington, London who took part in what the judge called a brutal assault on a partially sighted elderly woman was jailed for three years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. She was charged with robbery and assault.

Demonstrator fined

Roger Evans, aged 33, of Hainault Road, Leytonstone, London, was fined £10 at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court yesterday for threatening behaviour and having a bottle as an offensive weapon during the National Front march in north London last Saturday.

Union 'appalled'

The National Union of Bank Employees (Nube) has told the Lord Chancellor that it was "amazed and appalled" at the giving of a suspended prison sentence to a bank robber at the Central Criminal Court earlier this month.

Booming bonus

A competition to estimate the number of booms (mating calls) emitted in 48 hours by 11 pairs of bitterns at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' reserve at Leighton Moss, Lancashire, is being organized this weekend to raise funds for the society's work.

GLC's jubilee gift

The Greater London Council is contributing £100,000 to the silver jubilee fund "on behalf of the people of London", Lord Ponsonby of Shulbrede, chairman of the council, announced yesterday.

Mobility allowance up

Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, confirmed last night that the mobility allowance for disabled people will rise by £2 in November to £7 a week.

£95,000 appeal

An NSPCC appeal for £95,000 was launched yesterday to support the battered children's centre at Fallowfield, Manchester.

Live music to reach people unable to attend concerts

By Our Arts Reporter

A scheme to take live music out of its formal concert hall setting and into schools, colleges, hospitals, prisons and even private homes was launched in London last night by Mr Yehudi Menuhin.

He said the aim was to encourage the meeting of musicians and those who love music and to reach people who are not always able to attend live concerts.

The scheme is supported by the Musicians' Union and the Arts Council, which has paid half the formation cost of £5,000. An anonymous trust has

Shopworkers to campaign against Sunday traders

Local authorities who turn a blind eye to illegal Sunday trading may be taken to court by the shopworkers' union. Markets held on football grounds, race courses and fairs will be one of the chief targets of a campaign by the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers (Usdaw) which was announced at its conference in Scarborough yesterday.

Opportunities would be created for hundreds of artists, established and unknown, who will be selected by a panel of musicians. The artists will be paid a minimum fee of £25 and their expenses and given hospitality by their hosts. Mr Menuhin said he hoped there would be light music as well as music of the most serious kind.

Mr John Phillips, assistant general secretary, appealed to delegates later voted overwhelmingly for the abolition of the House of Lords. The motion came from Mr Harold Weate, aged 83, of Chester Cooperative branch.

SNP's aim is to bring down the Government

Scottish nationalists in the Commons are to take every opportunity to try to bring down the Government, Mr Hamish Watt, the party's chief whip, said yesterday.

Concern was also expressed about late-night shopping, and delegates voted in support of premium payments for work done outside the defined standard day. Mr Gary Alders (West Midlands) said a cashier in a supermarket might work up to 12 hours on late-opening days.

Delegates later voted overwhelmingly for the abolition of the House of Lords. The motion came from Mr Harold Weate, aged 83, of Chester Cooperative branch.

On the Government's reported intention to discuss with the other parties the reintroduction of the devolution Bill, he said: "These talks are nonexistent, so far as the Scottish nationalist MPs are concerned."

The opposition amendment on the Price Commission Bill, which seeks to impose tighter price controls, asks the House to refuse a second reading on the ground that it will discourage investment.

The Liberals seem likely to vote with the Government. With other minor party support (or abstentions), ministers estimate that they can ward off the Conservative challenge.

Wilson burglary included S Africa paper

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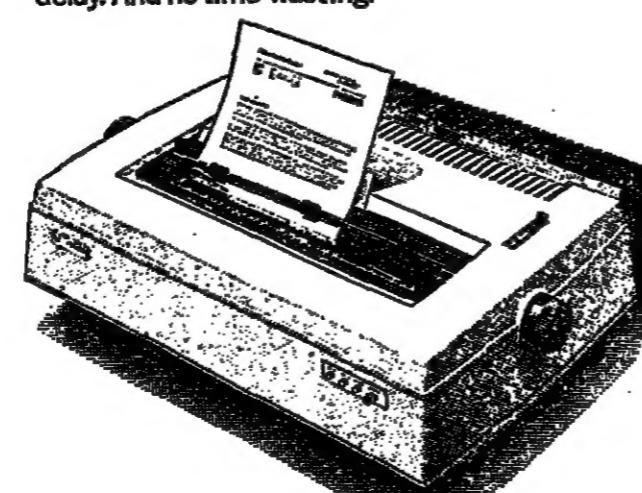
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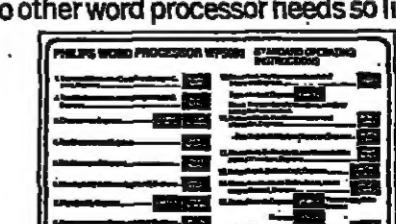


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WEST EUROPE

Butter to be cheaper than dearest margarine

By Hugh Clayton

Some butter will cost less than the dearest margarine in British shops once the Government decides how to deal with the 8p a pound subsidy agreed by the EEC yesterday. It should lead to early price cuts of about 5p a lb. over the counter.

However, the reductions will soon be eroded by higher support prices to dairy farmers and the advance of British farm prices to EEC levels. The Consumers' Association said yesterday that the stage in that advance due in May would add 6p a lb to butter.

The subsidy is complicated by the presence in Britain of stocks of butter which home and overseas suppliers bought before the subsidy was agreed. The size of the early price cut will depend on how the Government distributes the EEC subsidy between stocks bought at the old price and supplies bought at the new price.

The EEC farm-price package, of which the butter subsidy was part, was condemned by British farmers, food processors and consumer representatives yesterday. It was seen as a defeat for Mr Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

He had won neither a freeze on farm support prices nor a promise of reform to eliminate surpluses of food created by the common agricultural policy.

The National Consumer Council, which is appointed by the Government, said yesterday: "Having to increase the price offered to farmers for products which are already in surplus is an absurdity." The Food Manufacturers' Federation said that the devaluation of the green pound agreed by the British Government would work against Britain's counter-inflation policy.

David Cross writes from Luton: It was after a five late-night session that ministers of agriculture of the NCF completed their annual farm price "review" for the community's nine million farmers a month later than usual.

British objections to the offer of a butter subsidy of 7.5p a lb had produced a complete deadlock at the end of a 30-hour marathon month ago in Brussels.

British food prices are likely to rise generally by about 2.5 per cent over the next year, mainly as a result of new alignments of British farm prices to the much higher levels existing in other parts of the Community. This was a long-standing commitment under Britain's entry terms to the Community.

The main points of the agreement, which will take effect from the beginning of next month are:

Farm price increases: Hard whis 2.5 per cent; soft wheat 3.5 to 4 per cent; barley 4 per cent; maize 5.2 per cent; fruit and vegetables 2.5 to 4.5 per cent; milk 2.5 per cent (with a 1.5 per cent production tax from mid-September); sugar 3.5 to 4 per cent; beef 3.5 per cent; pork 5 per cent.

Dairy products: Introduction of premiums to encourage the non-delivery of milk; recompensation premiums to encourage switch from milk to beef production; subsidies for the sale of milk to beef production; subsidies for the sale of milk to cheese; a temporary ban on national aids designed to promote higher milk production; and an 8p a lb butter subsidy for consumers in Britain financed totally from EEC funds.

Beef: A continuation of the variable beef premium scheme for British producers for a further year.



Paris in the springtime: a Place de l'Opéra hotel employee adds to the unseasonable mountains of rubbish which are rising throughout the city because of a strike by refuse collectors.

Little enthusiasm for M Barre's 12-month action programme

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 26

If M Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, could have borrowed the warmth and eloquence of M Mitterrand, the leader of the Opposition, and combined it with his own determination and economic common sense, the 12-month action programme which he submitted to the National Assembly today might have galvanized the Government majority and turned the tide against the advance of the left.

But the series of steps he outlined to check unemployment, help families, and aid pensioners without relaxing his anti-inflationary programme did not, to say the least, arouse enthusiasm among the Gaullists and the Centre and got a distinctly cool reception from the Gaullists.

The chairman of their parliamentary party, M Claude Labbé, said it was "inadequate in the face of a situation which

requires more radical long term measures".

As expected, the Prime Minister called for a vote of confidence to compel all the parties of the Government coalition to face up to their responsibilities. It will be taken on Thursday evening and its outcome is not in doubt, though the Gaullists made it clear that their support would be strictly conditional.

M Barre made it clear that there could be no question of sacrificing the longer term objectives of putting the economic back on its feet to the short term one of winning the parliamentary elections next year.

He admitted "the persistence of a feeling of malaise, and even of anxiety, in the country due not merely to electoral or political causes" in spite of the progress made towards economic recovery. The economic "black spot" remained unemployment, especially among young people.

By exempting employers from payment of social security for school leavers for a year, recruiting 20,000 people for the public services, encouraging early retirement, encouraging unemployed immigrants to go home and extending professional training, the Government hoped to create 200,000 to 300,000 new jobs. These and other measures to help families and the old would be financed by an increase in fuel and petrol prices and a long term loan. They could be effective only with the cooperation of employers, unions and the public.

M Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, taxed the Prime Minister with failing to achieve his own objectives. The Government had no long term plan to deal with unemployment. "You have a parliamentary majority. But we have the majority of the people and we will use it wisely in rejecting a plan which leads to disorder and poverty", he said.

Riot at strike-hit Danish newspaper

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, April 26

Demonstrators fought with police and delayed distribution of the newspaper *Berlingske Tidende* for more than six hours today. A crowd of about 2,000 ignored police orders to move and in the fighting that followed several policemen and demonstrators were injured. Copies of the paper could be taken from the printing works only after the police had been withdrawn for two hours to let the crowd clear away.

It was the worst riot in Copenhagen since those during a meeting of the World Bank here in 1970. There were immediate demands that the Government preserve law and order. Mr Anker Joergensen, the Prime Minister, said later that the clash had been discussed at today's Cabinet meeting. "The Government must condemn such activities in the strongest possible way", he said. "Society cannot tolerate this form of conduct".

Referring to the sudden withdrawal of police in the face of the demonstrators, he said: "Leading police officers had to weigh the risk of bloodshed which was involved against the purpose of the operation."

He said that such demonstrations would not be tolerated in future and measures would be taken to stop demonstrators if a new attempt was made to blockade the newspaper.

The dispute at *Berlingske Tidende* has gone on since January 30. At the weekend agreement was reached between printing unions and most Danish newspapers but five which have dismissed their printing employees continue to be the target of union activities.

The minister made his comments about the alleged laxity of the Rome judges on misleading reports of the judiciary's handling of a prosecution involving alleged political extremists.

The reality which his letter to *Il Tempo* reveals is that of a probably chronic state of latent impatience between Government and judiciary which has come dramatically to the surface for the first time. It involves both the everyday functioning of justice and the present Government's attempts at reform.

Mr Henning Fonsmark, *Berlingske Tidende*'s editor, said today that the newspaper intended to publish normally, although in a reduced size tomorrow.

Disputes among Italian judges

From Peter Nichols
Rome, April 26

Italy's acute problems of law and order, as well as the grave malfunctioning of the judicial system, have been joined by an unprecedented clash between a large part of the judiciary and the Government.

The most striking public indication of this clash is the open letter sent to the conservative Rome newspaper *Il Tempo* by Dr Pietro Fassina, Rome's Chief Public Prosecutor, in answer to criticisms of the Rome judges made by Signor Francesco Cossiga, Minister of the Interior, in Parliament.

A second instance is probably of greater practical importance. The group of conservative judges, which is the largest single group within the National Association of Judges, withdrew at the weekend from executive positions in the Association for a variety of reasons which included a protest against the Government.

Ironically, the group of left- and far-left-wing members of the magistracy—the fourth main group into which Italy's judges are divided—was having its own congress in Rimini at the weekend.

The meeting ended in a split. Ideologically, the members could not agree on whether, as the minority argued, they should support the traditional left-wing parties, including Socialists and Communists, or throw their weight against these parties as being revisionist and too moderate.

All this public quarrelling among judges may appear un-

realistic in the midst of a serious crime wave and an appalling situation of judicial paralysis. Only two days ago, Signor Piero Ingrao, the Communist president of the Superior Judicial Council while the council examined disciplinary charges raised against him.

The second issue on which the conservative group felt it was not supported by its allies within the association was that of the "honorary judges". According to the conservatives, a justice of the peace without judicial training or law degree would make the crisis worse because the system of justice worse because a new political element would inevitably enter it.

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Inquiry opens into wartime record of Dutch collector

From Sue Masterman
The Hague, April 26

An inquiry into the wartime record of a Dutch art collector, who in 1951 emigrated to South Africa, has been ordered by Baron van der Feltz, The Hague general prosecutor. The inquiry is expected to last about a month.

Mr Jacob Abraham van Thielburg has given his art collection to the University of Pretoria.

It was confirmed today in The Hague that there had been informal contact between the University of Pretoria, and the Dutch Embassy there last January. The university was then told that there was "nothing officially wrong" with the collection's origins.

Mr van Thielburg was arrested

after the war on charges of collaboration with the Germans. A charge of illegal possession of Jewish property was dropped. Mr van Tilburg was the guest of honour at a luncheon given by President Giscard d'Estaing at the Elysée Palace and attended by General Marcel Bigeard, the paratrooper dropped into Dien Bien Phu and taken prisoner by the Vietcong.

Later Mr Pham Van Dong had a two-hour talk with President Giscard d'Estaing. "Everything has gone very well, better even than I expected. I would like to say a great deal has been done during this visit", he said.

The Association of Former Servicemen who served in Indo-China issued a protest today against the visit.

Britain wants Bonn to help again with BAOR costs

From Dan van der Vat
Bergen, West Germany

It was sure that the West Germans realized the burden to Britain's balance of payments of 550 million pounds a year in keeping 55,000 troops, 10,000 airmen and their dependants and equipment in Germany. The official agreement expired last year and there has been little progress on a new one.

The Prime Minister also praised the spirit, morale and efficiency of British forces which, he said, were making an important contribution to common defence in Nato. Mr Callaghan said he had not had any second thoughts about Government defence cuts as a result of his trip, and the issue had not been raised by the officers and men he met. He flew back to London this evening.

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Neo-Francoist call for a strong state

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, April 26

Señor Manuel Fraga Iribarne, the leader of the neo-Francoist Popular Alliance, told King Juan Carlos today that Spain needed a "strong state".

Speaking for the seven parties which make up the alliance, Señor Fraga Iribarne told the King, during an audience at the Zarzuela Palace: "There is only justice and freedom within the rule of the law. Only a strong state can guarantee liberty within the law."

The main theme of the Popular Alliance as its leaders barnstorm the country well before the official opening of the election campaign is law and order and the threat posed to this by the legalisation of the Spanish Communist Party.

The alliance made its first appearance in Barcelona last night with five of its leaders, all former ministers like Señor Fraga on the platform. There were "shows" of Francoism during one of the speeches.

Señor Fraga said the alliance did not regard Francoism as a "dirty word" and wanted to save the best of it.

Señor Suarez, the Prime Minister, now on an official visit to Mexico, said last night that he was in favour of the next Cortes (parliament) drawing up a new constitution.

Señor Rafael Alberti, the Communist poet and political exile, was reported today to be on the point of returning from Rome to Madrid. A member of the Communist Party's executive committee, he fled into exile in 1939. Together with Señor Dolores Ibárruri, known as "La Pasionaria", Señor Alberti is the most famous Spaniard still in exile.

SS rally plan in Italy 'an act of provocation'

From Our Own Correspondent

Rome, April 26

An official of the Italian Partisans' Association today described plans to organise a rally of former members of the Nazi Waffen SS at Varna, near Bressana, in the Alto Adige, as "an act of grave provocation".

Señor Mario Zadra, a leading member of the Partisans' Association in Bolzano, capital of the Alto Adige province with a big German-speaking population, promised a counter-demonstration if the Italian authorities failed to ban the meeting.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Carter sees no point in holding Geneva meeting on Middle East without promise of real progress

Washington, April 26.—

President Carter concluded his talks with King Hussein of Jordan and said that it might be better to abandon plans for a Geneva conference on the Middle East "unless we see some strong possibilities for substantial achievements."

As he told reporters after the departure of the King from the White House, he thought that "it would be a mistake to expect too much" because differences in the Middle East "are very wide and longstanding".

However, he noted that the Middle Eastern leaders he had talked to have expressed a strong desire to "marshal extraordinary efforts" to move toward peace in 1977.

Mr Carter cited as among "things that have to be won" the question of Palestinian representation and whether Arab nations would take part in the Geneva talks as a group or on their own analysis.

He also said that "he believes that the Arab leaders are to be optimistic about chances of peace. In an exchange of chess at a working White House dinner last night, the King said that his discussions with Mr Carter had given him more encouragement and more hope for a lasting peace in the troubled area.

It was the King's first public statement about the Middle East since his arrival here on Sunday for three days of talks with the Carter Administration.

In his toast, President Carter reiterated his caution about the success of international peace efforts. But he said present conditions in the Middle East, such as the presence of moderate leaders—made extraordinary diplomatic initiatives, while.

King Hussein is the second Arab leader to open talks with the Carter Administration, and he will be followed by others. President Sadat of Egypt was in Washington two weeks ago, while President Assad of Syria and Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia are to meet the President in Europe next month.

Meanwhile, President Carter has agreed to sell Israel five of the most sophisticated aircraft in the American arsenal at a cost of over \$500m. Administration sources said.

Although Mr Carter was extremely critical of the Ford Administration for selling massive amounts of arms to Iran, he approved the sale to bolster Iranian radar capability near the Soviet Union. The aircraft involved is the so-called Awacs (Airborne Warning and Control System).—Reuters and AP.

Arab student protests bring curfew in Nablus

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, April 26

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Middle East
al progress

OVERSEAS

Hopes of a solution to Pakistan crisis before weekend march

From Richard Wigg
Rawalpindi, April 26

Some hopes have been raised that a negotiated way out of Pakistan's six-week political crisis might be found before next Saturday's fresh trial of strength in the streets, when opposition supporters will face rioting police during their planned march to the home of Mr Bhutto, the Prime Minister.

Mr Bhutto spent more than two hours talking last Saturday to the Mufti Mahmud, president of the opposition Pakistan National Alliance, who has been imprisoned since March 26, Nawaz-i-Waqi, a leading Urdu daily close to the Opposition, reported today.

The meeting took place at the Shala police college rest house 12 miles from here, where Mr Bhutto has brought together almost all the leading representatives of the nine-party alliance in an evident demonstration of his power and to force them to confer.

Tonight, perhaps even more significantly, it became known that Air Marshal Asghar Khan, a former head of the Air Force who leads the Tehrik-i-Insaf element of the alliance, is expected to join the other leaders at Shala tomorrow.

Sometimes spoken of as the right-wing's candidate for the post of Prime Minister because of his authoritarian personality, Air Marshal Asghar Khan is the rugged of all the leaders in the alliance leadership. But he indicated last night, while refusing Government efforts to move him from the Lahore jail where he has been detained, that he would accede to a personal request from the Mufti.

Other leaders at Shala, in buildings well guarded by police and situated at the end of a long valley lined by bleak hills, include Nawabzada Asrullah Khan, who was brought there immediately after his arrest in Lahore early on Sunday, and the Begum Wali

Angolan-Yugoslav warning on intervention in Africa

Belgrade, April 26.—Angola and Yugoslavia have declared that compulsion and conflicts in Africa could lead to "unforeseeable consequences for Africa and peace and security in the world".

In a joint statement issued here last night, President Neto of Angola and President Tito of Yugoslavia said: "non-aligned countries should not allow themselves to be used by forces who do not like the policy of non-alignment".

At the end of a four-day visit to Yugoslavia by President Neto, the two leaders emphasized the importance of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in the struggle for African liberation and the fight against "imperialist pressures and interferences".

Their statement—denounced "racist, imperialist and neo-colonialist forces" for hindering the road to independence and freedom of the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia

(South-West Africa) and South Africa. It called on non-aligned and African countries to support liberation movements in the south of Africa.

The differences between some socialist countries should not hinder their mutual cooperation, and progressive forces of the world should help each other, it said.

President Tito and President Neto also called on developing nations to strengthen mutual economic cooperation, relying on their own resources, "in order to create stronger positions for negotiations with developed countries".

Warsaw: President Neto, on the first full day of an official visit to Poland, travelled to the Baltic port of Gdynia where he toured a shipyard.

The Polish press has suggested that fishing is a promising area of cooperation between the two countries, and today's visit indicated that the supply of Polish-built fishing vessels to Angola could be under consideration.—Reuter.

Senators accept Dr Brewster as London envoy

Washington, April 26.—Dr Kingman Brewster, chosen by President Carter as his Ambassador to Britain, had his appointment approved by the Senate foreign relations committee today. The way is now clear for endorsement by the full Senate.

Dr Brewster is president of Yale University.

Without debate the committee also approved Mr Philip Alston, an Atlanta lawyer, as Ambassador to Australia, and Mrs Anne Cox Chambers, a newspaper heiress, as envoy to Britain.

Senator Jacob Javits (Republican, New York) questioned Mr Alston and Mrs Chambers about their membership of Atlanta clubs alleged to discriminate against blacks. Mrs Chambers said she would reconsider her membership, but Mr Alston said he believed his membership was irrelevant.—Reuter.

Carter plan to curb cost of hospital care

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, April 26

President Carter has proposed legislation to hold down the rise in the cost of hospital care in the United States. The cost of a day's stay in an American hospital has risen by four, 1,000 per cent since 1950, compared with three of 1,36 per cent in the Consumer Price Index. In the past decade the rise has 300 per cent, to an average of \$158 (£93).

The total hospital bill for the nation reached \$55,400m last year \$254 for every American, increasing 15 per cent last year. It continues to rise more than twice as fast as the general cost of living. Mr Carter's proposals would limit future price increases to 9 per cent a year.

The suggestion has already aroused the ire of the medical lobbies, who claim that any such legislation would reduce the quality of medical care. The general public, utterly convinced that medicine is the most profitable racket in the United States, will doubtless

support Mr Carter, while being sceptical of his chances of success.

According to the Government, the chief cause of this very high rate of inflation is the insurance system. Bills are paid by insurance companies on fixed scales, which go up every year. Because there is no direct money relationship between patient and doctor, the doctor (or hospital administrator) feels no compunction at overcharging, or at insisting that every patient should be subjected to every conceivable medical test and treatment, however expensive or unnecessary.

Those who advocate a national health insurance scheme believe that closer regulation by the Government would reduce waste. Mr Carter has promised to work for health insurance, and this proposal is seen as a step in the right direction.

One factor which will probably help in reducing the inflation of medical costs is the rapid inflation in the numbers of doctors.

Mugabe man said to have been poisoned

From Our Own Correspondent
Johannesburg, April 26

A leading member of Mr Robert Mugabe's wing of the Rhodesian Patriotic Front, Mr Ben Nkomo, is alleged to have been a new offer. However, leading opposition figures still in Rawalpindi continued today to insist that Mr Bhutto should resign before new elections are held.

Aides of Air Marshal Asghar Khan did not conceal a certain fear that their leader might be left out in the cold. If he does go to Shala and participates in the opposition talks it could be a crucial factor; the other leaders insisted that he now continually been looking over their shoulders, well aware that if they stayed together they might sell a deal to their supporters in the country. But that if the Air Marshal did not join in, he might become a popular hero by denouncing any switch in tactics.

The Opposition has at least one card in its hand; its leaders know that Mr Bhutto would be reluctant to extend the curfew and martial law in Rawalpindi where the foreign diplomatic community lives, so that the big march on Saturday could be more readily contained.

Government officials have made representations to the British Embassy here over BBC broadcasts and commentaries on Pakistan's crisis. Following the line of Mr Bhutto's recent attack on the BBC—whose Urdu service commands a wide public while censorship is imposed on all local media—official sources maintain that the broadcasts constitute interference in the country's internal affairs.

Nawaz-i-Waqi, which appeared today with four blank spaces on its front page alone, told the Government in a leading article that censorship was self-defeating.

Conducted tour to dispel 'Devil's Island' tab on S Africa's maximum security jail A glimpse at the life of prisoners of Robben Island

Robben Island, April 26.—The South African Government, sensitive to allegations that it runs a "Devil's Island" for political prisoners, has finally allowed outsiders to see its maximum security jail. All its inmates are non-whites, convicted enemies of the state.

The fenced-in group of single-storey buildings is on Robben Island, a 232 acre piece of land seven miles north of Cape Town.

Major-General Jannie Roux, one of South Africa's deputy commissioners for prisons, conducted a long and foreign correspondents round Robben Island yesterday. He said it was a unique event as the prison had not been seen at close quarters by the media since it opened on April 1, 1961.

In that time opponents of the South African Government have dubbed it "South Africa's Devil's Island" after the notorious French penal colony, partly because of the secrecy surrounding it, and partly because of allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners inside.

One of the conditions under which the journalists were taken to the island was that they submit their copy to the Prisons Department for vetting by General Roux "for security reasons".

The prison holds 370 black, Asian and Coloured men in brightly-painted, freshly-painted barrack-type buildings.

Thirty-two of the inmates have been sentenced to stay for the rest of their lives. They include Nelson Mandela, president of the banned African National Congress; Walter Sisulu, secretary-general of the

ANC; Govan Mbeki, ANC's national chairman and Andre Mlangeni, also of the ANC. All were convicted in 1964 on four counts of sabotage and conspiring to start a violent revolution.

Mr Mandela, described by a judge at a previous trial as "the leader and figurehead of his people", was clearing weeds from a pathway with a shovel when the journalists saw him. He tried to conceal himself behind a tall rockery as they passed.

The journalists were not allowed to interview inmates, to keep them apart.

The cells, measuring 7ft by 8ft have thickly barred windows which look down into a courtyard with a concrete tennis court.

The island, covered by sparse grass, thick bushes and small trees, looks directly into Table Bay. It is populated only by the prisoners, their 174 white jailers and the prison officers' families—750 people in all.

The number of prisoners has risen by 130 over the last year, due in part to the riots in South Africa's black and



The inside view: A typical single cell for men serving life sentences on Robben Island.

Coloured townships. It was built to hold 650 people.

The prisoners work a five-day week, with Saturday and Sunday off. Officers said the working day for prisoners was from 7.30 am until 4 pm, with one hour for lunch and smoking break.

The prison officers are usually not armed. General Roux said, None of the officers seen by the reporters yesterday day carried guns.

The prisoners are not allowed newspapers, radios or television for security reasons. They are allowed two visits a month of half an hour each in which talk of politics and current events is forbidden. Only two letters a month are allowed in and two out, subject to censorship.

The prison is surrounded by twin steel-mesh fences about 20ft high and the same distance apart. The island's greatest security fence is the sea. It is three miles from the nearest land and the waters are frequently rough and cold.

Nobody has escaped from Robben Island, General Roux said. Only two have tried, 15 years ago, when ordinary criminals were confined here. Their makeshift raft capsized a few yards from the island and they swam back into the arms of their jailers.

The visit by the journalists had been kept a close secret until just before two Dakota aircraft flew them in from Cape Town. General Roux said this was to ensure that the journalists saw Robben Island as it was, adding that neither prisoners nor staff was prepared for the press.—Reuter.

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OVERSEAS

Canadian MP's party switch may lead to a general election

From John Best

Ottawa, April 26

The defection of a prominent Conservative MP to the Liberal Government has shaken Canada's political equilibrium. There is speculation that it may have helped to bring closer a federal election.

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, is being credited with a coup in achieving the conversion of Mr John Horner, who last week joined the Cabinet as Minister without Portfolio.

Mr Horner, aged 49, an Alberta rancher and a millionaire, had been a Conservative MP for 19 years. Through much of that time he acted as a leading spokesman for the right wing of the party. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Conservative leadership at last year's convention, which was won by Mr Joseph Clark, his junior by 12 years in terms of age and 14 years in terms of time spent serving in the Commons.

Although oriented doctrinally far to the right of Mr Clark, who is a progressive, Mr Horner remained a powerful force in the Conservative caucus.

He was known to have suffered huge losses in his attempt for the party leadership, which his supporters contrived to make up with fund-raising dinners in his constituency.

Because of regulations he did not immediately get his hands on all the money derived from these functions. The delay caused an ugly dispute between his constituency organization and the Conservative national office.

The Liberals, sensing that a big political plum might be ripe for plucking, approached Mr Horner on March 10, through Mr James Courts, principal secretary to Mr Trudeau.

The Prime Minister himself had at least one meeting with Mr Horner before the announcement that he was bringing him into his Cabinet. It is believed to be only a matter of time before the new minister receives a portfolio, probably an important one such as transport, trade and commerce, or agriculture. Mr Trudeau is

expected to have a Cabinet reshuffle this summer.

Mr Horner's switch has been called one of the most startling political events in Canada for years. What makes it so remarkable is the record he had established as a bitter, outspoken critic of Liberal Government policy and of Mr Trudeau personally.

Several years ago he voted against the Government's Official Languages Act in defiance of his own leader at the time, Mr Robert Stanfield, who supported it. The Act makes both French and English official languages of Canada.

He has long been popularly regarded as an opponent of the aspirations of French-speaking Quebec. In a weekend television interview, a French-speaking reporter called him a bigot. He also accused him of having advocated the use of force to keep Quebec in the confederation, but this Mr Horner denied.

Leeds United's

West Ham United 1

West Ham United awoke in time to the fact that there was a reward for them at Elland Road last night if only they would stretch out a hand to grasp it. It is always said that the most depressing defeat of all is in the semi-final round of the FA Cup, and Leeds United began at that stage as Manchester United on Saturday, had not recovered any shred of appetite for the game. They are comfortably, if anonymously placed in the middle of the table and this match clearly mattered little to them or to their supporters.

The attendance was under 15,000; those who would have been clamouring for Wembley tickets had Leeds been successful three days earlier, only to consider that their season is over.

West Ham, though, Robson's goal gave them a point which could help to keep them afloat.

Leeds are gradually changing shape and Don Revie, the England manager, could have been forgiven for replaying past

years. In Leeds' days he wanted

this result, albeit on the ground where he achieved so much.

Brennan, Giles and Hunter have moved on. Clarke is soon to have an operation and Keeney and Frank Gray were mentioned.

Even so, Leeds always had

more power at their disposal had they cared to make use of it, with

McQueen dominant in defence and Jordan's power in the air worrying an already nervous West Ham defence.

In midfield, Currie, Taylor

and Clark, though, were

on Brooking's precise pass. McQueen had an extra yard of pace as he swept across to cover, but Taylor later came back with a brace. If fruitless, diving header after Lampard had exchanged passes with Robson. An explosive shot by Currie curved wide and McNiven, given ample room in the West Ham penalty area, stabbed the ball over the bar.

Excitement was, however, strictly rationed although Leeds occasionally stepped out of their moulds and Madsen

reminisced about the days of

McQueen's days of wonder.

Leeds' attack was

more splendidly persistent and kept themselves afloat for at least another week.

Keeping themselves abreast of their own, albeit now less worrying difficulties, was more than enough for Rangers on a night when torrential rain made it impossible to guarantee anything. On the roads of the stadium, the players knew football was possible, though unnatural, especially the type favoured by Rangers.

Cruelly, nobody remembers that

rainstorms and swamps can influence the fluctuations of a

season's events. For a long time a

surprising degree of accuracy.

While Rangers rarely ruled the City penalty area, Ritchie frequently approached Parkes. He ran on to a long pass from Merrick after 20 minutes of drowned football, and Parkes, who had been considered football from either side and it could not be expected. The patient Rangers supporters showed no sympathy and roundly condemned Essex for shooting too hurriedly from close range, and Webb for lobbing the ball over the top from 30 yards. They deridedly heckled the appalling officiating.

If anyone truly mastered the

theart of the game, it was Kelly, for

Rangers, who plunged into tackles

and always seemed to emerge with the ball which he also managed to convey across the surface water

a surprising degree of accuracy.

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SPORT

Racing

No wandering from The Minstrel

By Michael Phillips

Racing Correspondent

It is long since I last contented that William O'Brien and Lester Piggott will win the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket today with The Minstrel, who won the Dewhurst Stakes on the course last autumn.

Nothing has happened since then which has caused me to have a change of heart. O'Brien and Piggott won this classic in 1968 with a two-year-old two years later with Whitsunday and The Minstrel is I cannot share his

luck in the straight. Together they went clean away from their rivals and that in itself was a convincing sign. Taylor is convinced that Garloch will do The Minstrel this time, but knows how well and how forward The Minstrel is I cannot share his

luck.

Today The Minstrel and Garloch

are drawn on opposite sides of the course: The Minstrel at 16

which is right over the far which is right over the far which is close to the stand rails. In the circumstances the race promises to be a test of Piggott's nerve and skill as much as of The Minstrel's ability to accelerate. The two runners are drawn low, way off his left. They include Tachypous, who will be wearing blinkers for the first time in a race; Garloch, Water Boy and Sporting Yankee.

Tachypous made heavy weather of winning the Middle Park Stakes last autumn and he was led to the extreme at Newbury 12 days ago where he was beaten a length and a half by He Loves Me. The Greenhorns' persistence and performance persuaded his trainer, Bruce Hobbs, to put blinkers on Tachypous when he galloped him at Newbury last Friday and judges on the verdict went they had the desired effect.

Tachypous was much too good for the smart older sprinters Gwent and Questa Nette, and it seems that he should be in the shade up to the end. In the Middle Park Stakes, Tachypous beat Nibbles, Water Boy and Etienne. Nibbles, Water Boy and Etienne are the other two who have been trained this month, even though they did not have the advantage of having a previous race. On this occasion it will be Water Boy the other. From the start the King of Macedon, who finished third in the Prix Djebel, The form of the Djebel has distinctly receded.

There was a lot to like about the way The Minstrel ran when he was beaten at home. Some have gone as far as to call The Minstrel simply because he has four consecutive wins, but that is not accurate in my opinion.

The fact remains that he is still unbeaten and the chosen representative of the mighty Ballydoyle empire on this all-important occasion. That is not to say that the strength of The Minstrel has never been more apparent than it was last week when he won classic trials at Epsom and Sandown Park with horses who are markedly inferior to him at home.

Some were not impressed by the way that The Minstrel won the 2,000 Guineas Trial at Ascot earlier this month, but I thought that he did a good job and I know that he quickened up in that heavy ground to go and win his race. Admittedly, The Minstrel hung to his left towards the end, but that was entirely excusable bearing in mind the atrocious conditions of the ground.

The Minstrel is a beautiful mover in his faster paces, and he should be much more at ease on the good ground that he will encounter at Newmarket today. At Ascot The Minstrel beat Garloch comfortably, and after J. O. T. T. Hobbs, who was the highest-rated two-year-old in our Fred Handicap trained in England.

Garloch's jockey, Brian Taylor, remarked that day that only good horses would have quickened the way that The Minstrel and Garloch

were beaten. He loves me, 7-1 Tachypous, 1-1 Garloch, Water Boy and Sporting Yankee. He loves me, 7-1 Tudor Jig, 20-1 King of Macedon, Nibbles, 33-1 Baudelaire, 3-1 Sporting Yankee.

FORM: Baudelaire (8-1) beaten 1st. 30022-12 Baudelaire (D) (F. Sasse) D. Sasse, 8-0 A. Murray 17

301 1101-01 Bon-Mi (C-D) D. Devaney, T. Gosling, 8-0 F. Cook 8

306 3410-22 Don White, green mask and cap G. Cudwalid 16

307 1010-3 Ellerme (F. Phillip) M. Staun, 8-0 G. Starkey 15

311-2 Galloch (IP) H. Hobbs, 8-0 B. Taylor 4

310 91-4 Good Company (V. Kilkenny) P. Cole, 8-0 G. Baxter 3

316 41-1 He Loves Me (A. Allerton) J. Kimberley 12

311 1108-0 In Doubt (F. Bulters) J. V. Waite, 8-0 J. Lowe 14

312 1014-3 King of Macedon (Sir M. Hobbs) J. Cunningham 11

313 1111-2 Nibbles (N. Schubert) R. P. P. Hobbs, 8-0 J. Salm-Marin 13

314 1-0 Rivalry Bull (C) (C. St George) H. Cecil, 8-0 J. Mercer 8

315 21-2 Sporting (D) (William Hill Racing Ltd) P. Wakelin, 8-0 Black 1

316 Dark blue, emerald green and white check cap P. Eddery 2

318 3011-2 Softens Ruby (D) (J. Hanson) Hanson, 8-0 E. Johnson 2

317 0102-1 Tachypous (D) Red and green hoop, yellow green hoop H. Hobbs, 8-0 G. Lewis 1

318 111-1 The Minstrel (C) (R. Sampson) M. B. Ryan, 8-0 L. Piggott 18

319 0011-1 Tudor Jig (IP) Tudor Jig, 8-0 M. E. Ebdary, 8-0 E. H. Hill 19

320 1228-12 Water Boy (D) (Sir C. Clegg) F. Boutin, 8-0 P. Paquet 5

321 3321-0 Whity Jet (N. Chapman) N. Carson 7

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PARLIAMENT, April 26, 1977

Nato's basic posture still exists: alliance now in better shape

House of Commons

The Government had made no written agreement with Nato to the effect that there was universal recognition that defence spending in real terms must be increased annually to cover the build-up of the Warsaw Pact. Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, said, Nato, he added, had considered that more should be spent on new equipment and Britain was doing that.

Mr Winston Churchill, an Opposition spokesman on defence (Stretford, C), had asked what progress he had made in fulfilling his commitment, jointly made with allied ministers at their meeting in Brussels on December 7 and 8 last year, to secure reasonable increases in defence expenditure by allied Governments continuing in the committee concerned.

Mr Mulley (Sheffield, Park, Lab)—This exaggerated feeling of uncertainty and lack of confidence in us is almost exclusively confined to the Opposition and I do not find it in talk with my ministerial colleagues.

We are one of the few nations who publish a five-year forward industrial and defence programme. The cuts we have announced have been on planned forward expenditure increased, expenditure, whereas most other Nato countries go on a year to year basis.

In many cases we do not even know because we are not sure what their inflation allowance is, what their annual budgets amount to in real terms.

Mr Peter Blaikie (Blackpool, South, C)—In a recent statement the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe said the defence of Britain and the Nato allies depend on having two and a half months' warning of attack. If that is anywhere near accurate, any defence cuts are irresponsible.

Mr Mulley—That is not a fair summary of what he said. That was in the context of the planning exercise for possible Nato operations outside their normal area, concerned with slipping routes.

I have it from the highest military sources in Nato that the alliance is in better shape than it was three years ago.

Mr Mulley—The communiqué of countering the Warsaw Pact build-up will call for real annual increases in defence spending by allied governments. That applies to this country and he signed to that document and our Nato allies.

Does Mr Mulley stand by that statement or repudiate it?

Mr Gilmour—The communiqué was the statement of the consensus of the discussions that took place. There was no question of signing any document.

The particular sentence Mr Churchill had chosen is a fair confirmation of what a well-considered Nato view is that we should concentrate on increased spending on new equipment. In terms of the new equipment, the percentage we spend on it compares favourably with our Nato allies. So in that context we are carrying out our intentions of the discussions.

The Government were satisfied that the basic posture of Nato to make an aggressive, a recklessly gamble by potential enemies, still exists. Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, said later.

He had told Mr Michael Marshall (Arunel, C) that he planned to attend the spring meetings of Nato defence ministers in Brussels next month. He added: The Euro group will meet on May 16 and the Defence Planning Committee on May 17 and 18.

Consultation on future cuts

Mr Frederick Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence

repeated the assurance that no intention of reducing the size of BAOR pending what one hoped would be a successful outcome of the mutual balanced force reduction negotiations in Vienna.

Mr Frank Allum (Salford, East, Lab)—Will the Secretary of State rebut and resist Lord Chalfont's propaganda in his long and biased BBC programme and his articles in *The Times* for more arms spending?

Mr Mulley—it would be asking too much if I had to refer statements of all kinds of consultation in the press, many of which are contradictory. I have seen the articles in *Under the Sun*.

Mr Ian Gilmour, chief Opposition spokesman on defence: He does

Bullocks without food or water for 48 hours

The story of the transport of nine cattle bulls from Dover to Northern Italy without being provided with food or water on the 48 hours' road journey was told by Mr Robin Corbett (Hemel Hempstead, Lab).

He was given leave to introduce the Animal Welfare (Export of Live Animals for Slaughter) Bill to change the law on export of live animals for slaughter. When the House had decided by a narrow majority in January, 1975, to resume the bill trade it was against the background of the O'Brien report recommending that it be abolished under certain conditions which should be acceptable and enforceable. That had been overruled.

British vets, whether ministry or private, tried to ensure compliance with the required regulations, but did not succeed. The Ministry of Agriculture did not even know the number of separate consignments sent abroad for slaughter.

Only this morning he had received a report of one experience of a wanton breach of animal welfare regulations, namely the national on French soil. It came from Chief Inspector Burfield of the RSPCA and concerned nine charralais bulls put abroad a ferry just before midnight on April 20 to 21 at Dover. They had been loaded from lorry.

The bullocks were taken ashore at Dover 4.30 am on April 21, but did not have the customs and 10.15 am in a Bedford lorry.

The three RSPCA observers reported that it was driven as exceeding slow rate and 40 kilometres from Calais it braked hard and the cattle were thrown forward.

Reports had to be carried forward, but the cattle were not touched during the journey, when the lorry was under the constant observation by Mr Burfield and his colleagues.

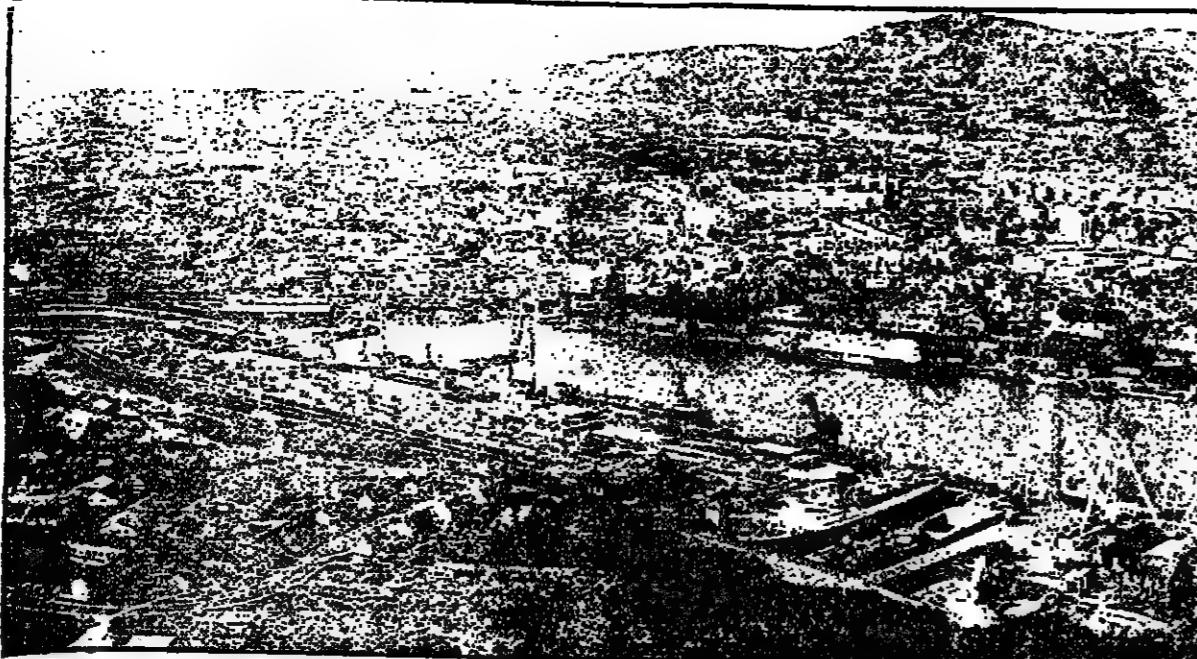
Their view was that the lorry was unsuitable for its purpose and that seemed to be why it was going slow.

Just as the trade in human beings 150 years ago (he said) shamed those engaged in it and the country which allowed it, so the same happens today with this vile and shameful trade.

The Bill was read a first time.

Holyhead - Dun Laoghaire

A Special Report to
mark the inaugural
sailing of the St Columba



An aerial view of Holyhead. Centre: old people watch the world go by. Right: the St Columba enters Dun Laoghaire harbour. Top: Holyhead's only street market; a Georgian door in Dun Laoghaire; children at play in the Irish town.



special photographs: Brian Harris

by Michael Bally

British Rail Sealink today introduces what even its

competitors concede is the largest and most luxurious ship ever to operate on the Irish Sea.

At 8,000 tons, with room for 2,400 passengers and 335 cars, the St Columba is nearly twice the size of its predecessors, and lavishly endowed with those amenities—bars, lounges, shops, restaurants, disco, television, comfortable seating and attractive furnishing—which have become the norm on other routes. The Irish route is not like others around the British coast, an is not much difference in that of the two crossing the Irish Sea in indication of which is not the standard of the two crossing the Irish Sea in

only that it is only at this stage that it is getting two sets it apart from other tourists.

Since regular ferry services were first started across the Irish Sea in the mid-nineteenth century, the baseline has always been Irish people travelling to and from their work in England, with a smaller layer of business travellers and tourists.

Until recently, therefore, the typical ship on the route had a smallish first class with decent old-fashioned comfort, and a larger tourist in which at least in the holiday seasons when Irish workers returned home in droves, conditions could be fairly rough.

On the St Columba there is not much difference in that of the travellers the Irish Sea in

1970 about half were in continental visitors, who now make up nearly a fifth of the total; over the past five years. The coach tours of Ireland so popular in the 1960s, have almost disappeared.

Tourist traffic last year fuel, and maintenance. If was still about 250,000 down the one big ship can be kept reasonably full—and at sea without breakdown—it makes a lot of sense. There are, however, inevitable drawbacks.

One is that you cannot lay up half a ship when trade is slack—though British Rail has gone a long

way towards that by agreeing with the unions to close

half the passenger accommoda-

tion off-peak. This is

especially important in a trade as seasonal as the

Irish, where the level of

peak traffic is four or five

times that of the off-peak.

Replacing two smaller

ships with one larger one

saves on both capital and

operating costs, since it not

only costs less to build but

requires less manpower,

going each way, on which follow at least part of the 40 per cent in passenger passengers could slumber rule of the sixth-century caravans on the route in until morning if they liked, religious community to the first quarter of the year which Columba belonged; compared with last, 45 per cent in cars, and more than daily, work daily. The extra 50 per cent in lorry and trailer freight.

Columba, especially since Competition between the rival British and Irish two state-owned Lines will Line has also ordered big continue to be tough. Ireland's B and I already has three fairly modern drive-on ferries with a fourth on the way for its two longer over-night routes (Liverpool-Dublin and Swansea-Cork), while Sealink has its other short route, with the drive-on ferry, Avalon, between Fishguard and Rosslare.

That must be good for the users. As for the operators, they will no doubt continue to improve their service and marketing, and look forward to the recovery of tourism and the economy.

After years of stationary traffic or decline, there was

nevertheless Sealink's managers will no doubt need to an improvement of nearly

respondent, The Times.

New luxury on a route like no other

about that, against the trend elsewhere, the St Columba is still a two-class vessel.

Since regular ferry services were first started across the Irish Sea in the mid-nineteenth century, the commercial judgment is clearly that enough tourists and business travellers are prepared to pay more than the Irish nurse or building worker to whom, on what is after all only a three-and-a-half hour crossing, economy is the prime requirement.

The mix of passengers has fluctuated widely in recent years. The vigorous efforts of the Irish Tourist Board to carve out for the Emerald Isle a substantial share of the expanding world tourist market in the 1950s and 1960s were an success-

fully curtailed the travel of those who were.

Meanwhile, whatever the risk or absence of it to themselves, many English people clearly decided that they did not want to spend their holidays among people of violent and boisterous tendencies.

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After years of stationary traffic or decline, there was

nevertheless Sealink's managers will no doubt need to an improvement of nearly

respondent, The Times.

Sealink's new luxury ship has everything. Including a full complement of bargains.

Isn't it nice to know that the fastest, most comfortable ship on the Irish routes can be enjoyed at such low prices?

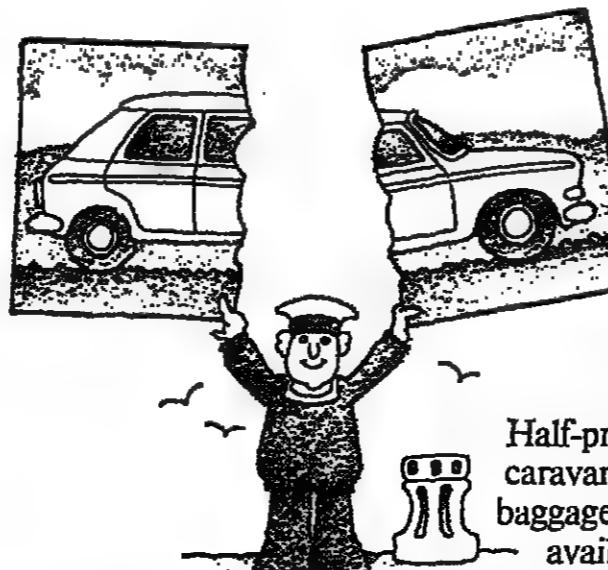
Just cast your eye over these great deals, and see if you don't suddenly find yourself thinking about a lovely trip to Ireland.

The St. Columba will carry 335 cars and 2400 passengers in some luxury from Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire. If you haven't been across to Ireland recently, you can't imagine how Sealink has improved passenger comfort and services from both Holyhead to Dun Laoghaire, and Fishguard to Rosslare.

We'll take your car over this year at last year's price.



Minis and some other models cost a little more to travel, but the prices of 95% of cars remain the same. Some even come down.



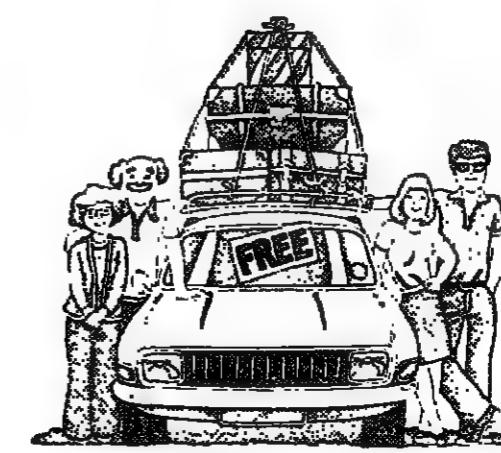
Travel off-peak and we'll go halves.

Half-price for your car, your caravan, your boat and your baggage-trailer. This offer is available until July 10 or between September 11 and December 15. The only condition is that both your journeys must be made within these date limits.



Every kid goes for a quid.

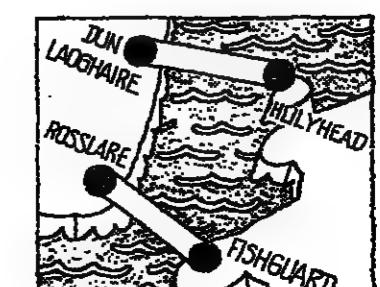
If they're between 3 and 14, and they're car passengers, travelling 2nd class—except Fridays to Mondays July 15 to September 5.



Your car goes FREE!

For 4 adult fares on a 10-day ticket. Provided you travel out and home before July 10, or after September 10. The basic price is £65, regardless of the length of your car. Two children, aged 3-14, count as one adult.

For £1 more we'll take you first class on the crossing.



Supreme comfort at a nominal fee. 'Kids for a quid' becomes kids for £1.25 only.

All the details you need are in the Sealink '77 brochure. Collect one today from principal rail stations or appointed travel agents.

Sealink IRELAND
Our new luxury ship will charm you over.

Sealink is a consortium of British, French, Belgian and Dutch state shipping undertakings and is the world's largest short sea ferry operator. British Rail's share alone is more than 40 ships with a turnover of about £100m a year, operating 27 different sea, estuarial and lake services. The shipping division has several ports of its own, of which Holyhead and Fishguard are two, and over the years has contributed a small but steady profit to railway finances. In 1975 because of rising prices and falling traffic, it made a £5m loss which was substantially reduced last year.



Dun Laoghaire is the town which has found its way into the *Guinness Book of Records* while Holyhead has a remoteness that appealed to George Borrow who found the people poetical and Ruskin who admired the town. Patrick O'Leary takes a fresh look at these two points of departure

A small foretaste of the Emerald Isle

When the Queen visits Holyhead on her jubilee tour in June she will find a town of large chapels, small villas and a steep winding main street. But a sleepy tourist might think he was already in Ireland rather than at the port of embarkation, for the square tower of Le Bon Sauvage convent dominates the skyline, while coins and banknotes from the republic are accepted in shops.

Many Irish families settled in the town in the mid-nineteenth century, when a knitting company.

the development of harbour roads and railway provided work. But the present situation is less prosperous.

Mr R. A. Johnson, clerk to the town council, said the population, with surrounding Holy Island, was 12,500, and the unemployment rate might also bring work.

Most of the property development is unobtrusive: a new police headquarters and public library built on difficult sloping sites, bungalows on the outskirts and council houses on cleared land. One Londoner now working in Holyhead said: "You have to go to Chester for really competitive, cut-price shopping. The nearest

Marks & Spencer is 44 miles away."

But this remoteness appealed to George Borrow, who found the people poetical, and described how he stood on "this holy headland and thought on the old times when it was the grand seat of Druidical superstition". Ruskin, too, admired what he called the mighty granite rock with its heathy crest, and its foot

enlarged and deepened over the years, and there is an outer harbour of refuge.

The mountain is only 720ft, but on a clear day

offers views from Snowdonia in Wales to the Wicklow Hills in Ireland.

sailing ships from contrary creased by leering while at winds, but now provides a Holyhead of the death of a yachting centre with 200 yachts, his wife, whom he detested.

He shares the command of what many British Rail officials believe is the finest ferry in the world with two other permanent masters and two relief masters. He may have received his command for good attendance but this Holyhead-born seaman probably understood the vagaries of the Irish Sea better than most men.

Since 1948, when he was third officer on a British Rail cargo vessel, he has crossed the Irish Sea thousands of times, in all moods—the past 17 years in command.

Going to sea is a tradition in his family, and there was never any question of him doing anything else. In my

young days going to sea was the thing to do. Holyhead is a landmark for mariners.

Grateful fellow citizens

placed an obelisk on a hill

overlooking the harbour, as

a memorial to him and his wife, whom he detested.

He has been with the

since he joined the shipping

firm in Liverpool in 1938.

Throughout the war he was

with the Merchant Navy

and, in the和平, he

served on ships flying the

Union Jack. After the war he served on ships flying the

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Port poised for revival

by Diana Paff

They are drilling for oil off the coast of Wales. If oil or gas is found in sufficient quantities in the Irish Sea it could change the fortunes of the port of Holyhead.

For Holyhead has a large outer harbour with sheltered, deep water which would be suitable for supply vessels to service oil developments. It has a fleet of tugs and land available for depots and storage areas.

Holyhead could do with some oil at the end of the rainbow. Its well-being is tightly linked with that of Ireland and, during the past 10 years, it has seen a substantial decline in trade as a result of Ireland's political troubles.

Since the day in 1850 when George Stephenson's tubular bridge was built across the Menai Strait, earning for the designer the tribute that he had "done more to raise the value of property of all kinds in Wales and to promote the social happiness of the people than had been done in the Island before being sold. But during those 10 years

warriors since the Roman invasion", the journey for rail travellers from Buxton to Holyhead has altered little. The impressive crossing through the iron girders of the Britannia bridge is the last leg of the journey before embarkation.

And in the same way today, as then, the travellers are passing through, bringing important revenue to the port, but rarely stopping overnight in the town of Holyhead or staying to explore the island.

A spokesman for the Anglesey Tourist Association estimates that some 75 per cent of those who make the crossing are Irish or of Irish extraction and visit relatives. But the association would like to see Irish visitors encouraged to come for holidays to Anglesey itself. Last year the North Wales Tourism Council organized several shopping trips from Ireland to Llandudno, with coach trips round Anglesey, and this could be repeated this year.

Until the last decade, Holyhead was a busy port, with a long tradition of carrying mail and passengers to Dun Laoghaire. It was also the main service for bringing Irish cattle into Wales and England, the cattle being fattened on the island before being sold. But during those 10 years

there have been dramatic changes in the pattern of operation of the port, not only because of civil disturbances in Ireland, but also because of a fire in the Britannia tubular bridge in 1970, which halted all shipping services from Holyhead for two years.

Alternative services for cars and passengers were operated from Heysham, but the fire dealt a body blow to the cattle ships. Much of the business went to competitors in those years and Ireland invested in the slaughter and preparation of carcasses for sale to Europe rather than in simply exporting cattle on the hoof. Daily sailings of the cattle boats started again, but with greatly diminished business and in November 1975—in spite of protests locally and from Ireland and objections from the Transport Users' Consultative Committee—the service was closed.

The port is owned and operated by British Rail, which is still the largest single employer on Anglesey, employing 1,200 men (an important factor in an area where 13 per cent are unemployed). And 1977, oil or no oil, could be a year of revival for Holyhead. British Rail has invested heavily in the docks, spending more than £1m on a pas-

terminal

with expecting 230,000 passengers

on the new ferry, of which

30,000 will be motorists.

We expect to carry 100,000

cars and some 10,000 roll-on, roll-off commercial vehicles.

Holyhead has a special jetty

for alumina-carrying ships

the St Columba, a modern

multi-purpose service ferry,

the St Columba, built in

Denmark, will go into ser-

vice. The new ferry will

carry rail passengers,

motorists and their cars and

commercial road vehicles

from Holyhead to Dun

Laoghaire. However, there

is strong local criticism of

British Rail that it has not

planned its investment as

a package, including improve-

ment to trains and stations

as well as the docks.

Mr Peter Fenton, chief

executive for Anglesey,

says: "There has been no

investment in rolling stock

and in 1977, oil or

no oil could be a year of

recovery for Holyhead. British Rail has invested heavily in the docks, spending more than £1m on a pas-

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On May 2 British Rail's new

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ENTERTAINMENTS

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN, 240, 1006. *Carries* charters 01-2000. *Box office*, 01-2000.
THE ROYAL OPERA
Tonight 8.30. *Traviata*. *Stevie Sas*
(Violetta). *Alfredo* (Alfredo).
Please note: *Cast*: *Sylvia* *Sas*
(Violetta). *Alfredo* (Alfredo).
Director: *Patricia* *Fraser*. *Costumes*:
Alfredo. *Scenery*: *John* *Porter*.
Music: *Giuseppe* *Verdi*. *Time*: 7.30.
Sat. Mat. April 30 at 3.0. *Sal. Mat.*
May 7 at 2.45.

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
Until Sat. 21. *Covent Garden*. *Stevie Sas*
May 20 to 21. *Swingin' Ballet*.
SAFARI'S WELLIES TH. *Rosebery Ave.*
E.C. 107. *Box office*, 01-2000.
ROYAL BALLET
Tues. 7.45. *Mat. Sat. 2.30. Tues. 7.30.* *Tonight*. *Raymond Alcock* *III*. *The Court*
of Love. *Chuckles*. *Fr. 8.30. Tues.*
Swingin' Ballet. *Mat. Sat. 2.30. Tues.*
Love and the Fool. *Mon. & Tues.*
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CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL. *Tonight*. 8.30.
ROYAL MOZART PLAYERS. *Haydn*. *Black*, *Tams* *Vasary*, *Haydn*. *Light*
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No. 222. *Symphony No. 34*. *Mosaic*
Funeral Music.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL. *Tonight*. 7.30.
ROYAL CHAMBER MUSIC. *Celli*. *Albrecht* *Wyly* *Vivian*. *RPO*. *Germany*
Keyboard *Concert*. *Woolley* *Brooks*.
Saturday 22. *Concert*.

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL. *Tonight*. 7.45.
PHILIPSOPHIA. *George* *Mathews*.
Works by *Bach*, *Vivaldi*, *C. P.*
E. Bach.

THEATRES

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7.30. *Mat. Sat. 3.0. Tues. 7.30.* *London's Best Night Out*.
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AND RACY COCKTAILS". *Pop*.
IRENE.

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MICHEL DOTRICE IN
SAME TIME NEXT YEAR
"SIMPLY GREAT". *Daily Mail*
"TRIUMPH FOR CRAWFORD".
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MICHAEL CARMON. *ROSEMARY LEACHEY*
IN ALAN AYCKBOURN'S NEW PLAY
"JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES".
An unqualified masterpiece. *D. M.*

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The play is outstanding

"brilliant". *Times* *Out*.Stevie Sas *as* *Orwell*. *Directed* by *John* *Dexter*."STUNNING A COMPELLING". *Sid*.ALDWYCH. 856, 900. *Box office*, 01-5202.ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
in *reprise*.NO. 222. *King Lear*. *David* *Edgar*. *Destry*.Box Office *at Piccadilly*. *Theatre*, 01-500.REVIEW: *WILDE*.AMBASSADORS 836, 1711. *Evenings 8.30.*

"THE MOST SUBSTANTIAL NEW

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DONKEY'S YEARS

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FIRE ANGEL

هذا من المجل

CITROËN CX

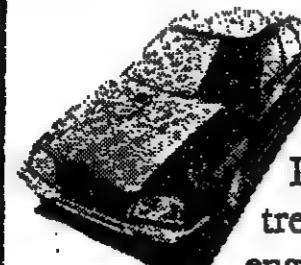
'Motor' magazine described it "one of the world's most beautiful production cars of all time," a verdict any motorist would be hard pushed to disagree with. All the more difficult then to believe that the elegant lines of the Citroen CX Pallas owe little to aesthetic consideration and much to the influence of practical requirements.



LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Aerodynamically designed, the sleek shape of the CX offers minimal resistance to the wind. As you'd expect this helps improve performance and contributes in no small measure to the car's 112 mph top speed. Less expectedly, the wind cheating design also results in greater fuel economy with the CX Pallas returning a pleasantly astonishing 34 mpg at a constant 55 mph.

Clear panoramic vision is achieved with an almost uninterrupted band of windows which eliminate blind spots. The large concave rear window, apart from contributing handsomely to the appearance of the Pallas, was actually designed to deflect rain and afford a wider field of view. And don't mistake the single front windscreen wiper for a piece of design indulgence; it sweeps a broader area than the conventional pair.



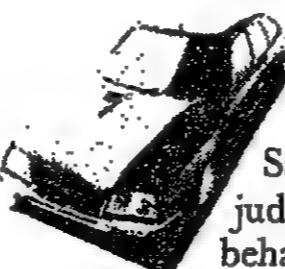
LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Driving comfort is rated extremely important by Citroen engineers and the detailing on the CX bears testimony to this. Gear lever aside, essential controls are arranged in two groups so that all can be operated without the driver's hands having to leave the steering wheel. Vari-Power steering prevents the wheels from being deflected by road surface

irregularities and power-returns to a straight line position immediately the steering wheel is released.

Ergonomically designed seats give back and leg support and the front seats are fully adjustable. Seats, together with suspension, help eliminate long distance driving fatigue. Citroen's famed self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension has won such universal acclaim that Citroen aficionados are apt to assume the general motoring public is thoroughly familiar with it. But it bears repeating that there is no more comfortable suspension system on any car anywhere in the world.

C-matic transmission is an optional extra on the CX Pallas. It eliminates the clutch pedal, transmission being achieved by use of a torque converter fluid coupling with automatic operation.



LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Safety in relation to cars must be judged on two levels. How the car behaves in an accident and how the car behaves in helping you avoid accidents. On both counts the Citroen CX stands out as one of the safest cars in the world.

Collapsible zones in the CX body shell are designed to absorb impact in a collision. The profiles of the door interiors follow the shape of the human body. There are no sharp or

hard projections inside the car and foam padding has been used extensively to cushion any unexpected blows.

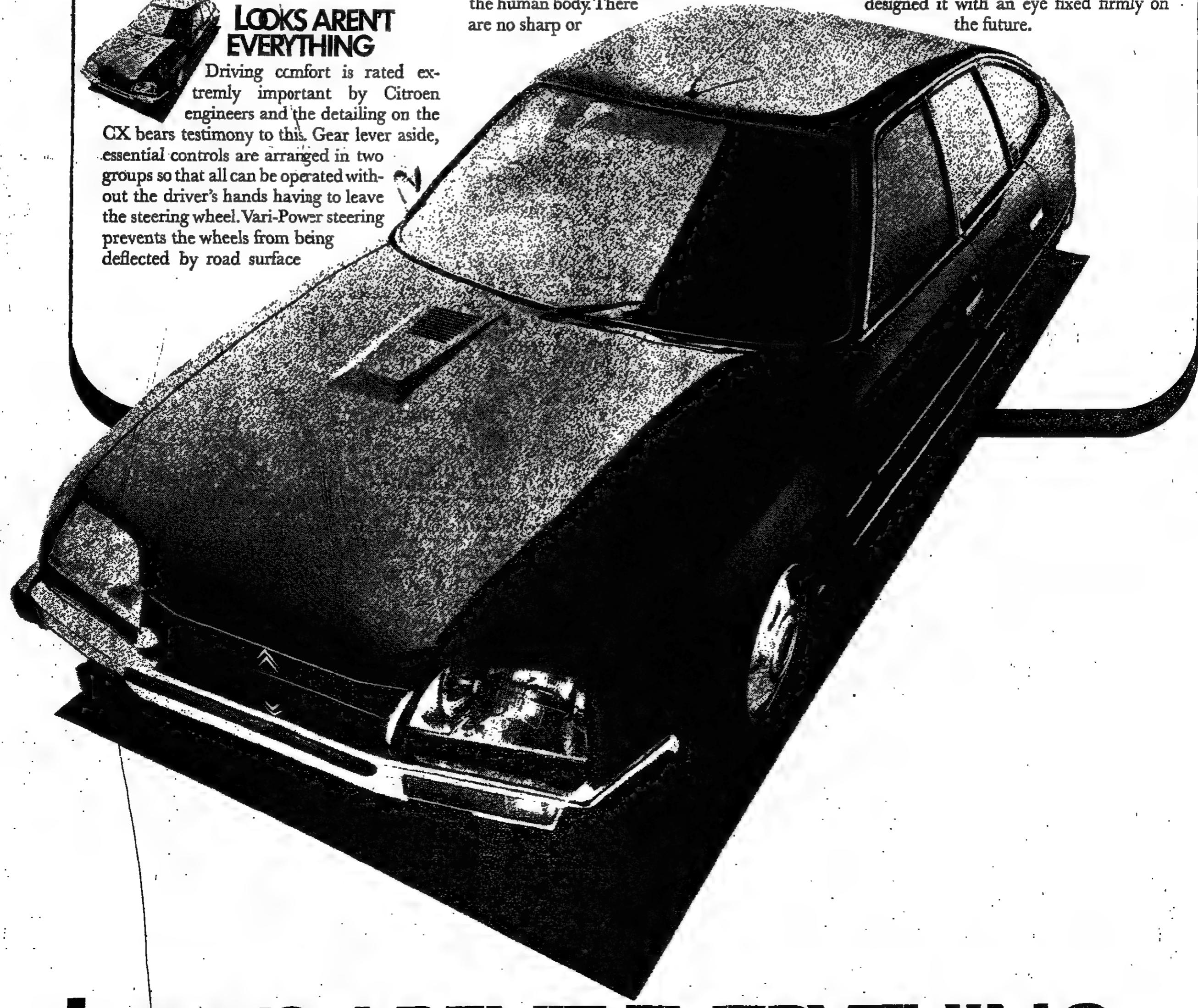
But far better to avoid an accident than survive one. The steering, handling and road-holding of the Citroen CX are superb. An example to give you some idea of what it's like: imagine you have a blowout on the motorway - worse still, imagine a wheel comes adrift. Citroen's self-levelling hydropneumatic suspension holds up the car so it can continue travelling in a straight line on three wheels.



LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

Features still offered as options on many luxury cars are standard on the CX Pallas: fitted speakers and aerial, reclining front seats with headrests and electrically operated front window wipers. In addition, a special tectyl underbody protection is applied to all Citroen CX models sold in Britain.

Having come this far to demonstrate that the Citroen CX is functional in both concept and design, it must also be admitted that the whole appearance of the car is decidedly futuristic. But even this has a practical objective. When a car is so obviously built to be around for many years to come it would have been impractical to say the least, not to have designed it with an eye fixed firmly on the future.



LOOKS AREN'T EVERYTHING

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The professor and a scoundrel called Sir Edmund

A story which includes the side. The *locus classicus* in fine and valuable study of a modern times is *The Quest for Corvo* (Professor Trevor-Roper makes clear that he had that book much in mind in writing his own, which does indeed have a large number of affinities with it), but in a different way Professor Quentin Bell's magnificent biography of Virginia Woolf can equally serve as a model: it is not just that having read it I never want to read another word on that tiresome woman (as a master of fact I never wanted to read any word on her, and was virtually tricked into reading the book while staying in the house of friends who put it beside my bed), but that I find it impossible to imagine anything more of value or interest being said on the subject. And the best of such books that I have read recently is David Buchanan's *The Treasure of Auchincleck*, the extraordinary story of the discovery and collection of the papers of James Boswell.

Ruthless, unscrupulous and more than half mad

But if the story implied by these circumstances must be interesting, much the same, if not more, has to be said of the two volumes which the professor, heedless of the provisions of Section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act 1876 and Section 320 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952, brought, all unknown, into the country, and unpacked beneath the very windows of Bodley's Library; if you doubt me, consider that the books contained an assertion (accompanied by the most exhaustive and elaborate details) that their author had had carnal relations with, among many dozens of others, the Dowager Empress of China, Paul Verlaine and Lord Rosebery.

The author was Sir Edmund Backhouse; Professor Trevor-Roper's book about him, *A Hidden Life* (published by Macmillan), has been widely and enthusiastically reviewed, but I see no reason why that should inhibit me from expressing my own pleasure in a book which is not merely entertaining but as scholarly and elegant as anything the professor has done. As it happens, *A Hidden Life* is an example of a kind of book which I particularly enjoy, no doubt for deeply buried psychological reasons: it tells a story that is complete, or as nearly so to human ingenuity can make it. Books with titles like "Power: A Study", or "The Influence of the Eighteenth Century on the Nineteenth", or "Greece and Rome" may be fascinating in their way, but they are not fascinating in this way: it is eternally impossible to say the last word on such subjects, to answer every question they raise. But a few books, generally studies of an episode or an individual, can draw a circle round their subject and leave the reader satisfied that nothing of value or interest about it remains out

So it is with Edmund Backhouse and the Regius Professor's entirely successful *Quest for him*. And it is just my hankering after completeness that the book satisfies; it must surely be welcome to anyone with enough romanticism to appreciate the story of a man who was a flamboyant and up-to-nothing scoundrel, a fantasist and liar on a colossal scale, a thief, forger, fraud and pornographer, but who was in addition a gifted linguist, a genuine scholar, in some ways near to genius, and above all a man for whom the reader cannot help conceiving an enormous sympathy and affection. Every time he is in yet another scrape from which extrication seems impossible, we stand at the side of the track as he staggers by, cheering him on and hoping that, against the odds, he will manage to shake off the pursuers. Fear nothing: he always does.

But *A Hidden Life* has an extra justification, and that the most important of all. Irrespective of the subject, it is an excellent book: Professor Trevor-Roper not only marshals and presents a great deal of very complicated information in an admirably clear and well-ordered manner, he also gives us a memorable picture of China from the end of the nineteenth century to the Second World War, an astonishing portrait of G. E. ("Chinaman") Morrison, for many years the Peking correspondent of this newspaper, who became a legend in his own lifetime and has remained one since (and who here turns out to be ruthless, unscrupulous and rather more than half mad), and a

That episode was typical of Backhouse's whole life, and Professor Trevor-Roper's handling of it is typical of his whole book: the reader is throughout amused, amazed and enthralled, and increasingly grateful to the Swiss scientist who so nearly got the Regius Professor into such embarrassing trouble at Hesthwaite. But let the professor have the last word:

There we may leave Sir Edmund Backhouse: the spendthrift aesthete of the 1890s who became the sinecure and recluse of the next century, the spiritual focal point of the Second World War; the brilliant finanist who used his gifts to fiddle successive patrons; the enchanter whose spells softened the hard heads of businessmen and diplomats; the collector whose generosity enriched an old university and who in exaltation demanded his own papers to meaningless destruction; the clever wartime agent who hid his own squatness in a ludicrous wild-goose chase; the scholar who created a "masterpiece" of historical writing and produced a masterpiece of forgeries; the ghost-writer who created a whole world of ghosts; the mystery man, the calligrapher, the pornographer. However he may be judged, he was, in his self-expression, an original.

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Hattie Jacques is worried about Joe

He's 78, and lives, sleeps and cooks in one horribly damp room.

He says life's harder than during his service in the 1914 war, because then there were pals to talk to. Now he's crippled and "nearly round the bend with loneliness, not a ruddy soul to talk to, and no chance to get out".

I know what needs doing: a Day Centre in Joe's district and a minibus to pick him up. For it can't be right for him to live that lonely life, can it?

There are lots of other Joes, and Janes, with this kind of constant heartache in old age. Help the Aged is doing all it can—but lack of money holds up them and their volunteers from helping many who need just this kind of practical friendship, both at home and abroad.

Join me and give a hand to someone who needs it. £25 can bring practical help to another lonely person. £30 helps provide a Geriatric Day Hospital.

£150 perpetuates the memory of someone dear to you, by inscribing their name on the Dedication Plaque of a Day Centre.

£100 names a hospital bed in Africa or Asia.

Your donation is desperately needed to help old people. So please use the FREEPOST facility and address your gift to: Hon. Treasurer, The Rt Hon. Lord Maybury-King, Help the Aged, Room 19, FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1E 7JZ (No stamp needed).

*Please let us know if you would like your gift used for a particular purpose.

A clear message for the Tories make Britain one nation

"Well, society may be in its infancy", said Egremont, slightly smiling, "but say what you like, our Queen reigns over the greatest nation that ever existed."

"Which nation?" asked the younger stranger. "For she reigns over two."

The stranger paused: Egremont was silent; but looked inquiringly.

"Yes", resumed the younger stranger after a moment's interval. "Two nations: between whom there is no intercourse and no sympathy; who are as ignorant of each other's habits, thoughts, and feelings, as if they were dwellers in different zones, or inhabitants of different planets; who are formed by a different breeding, are fed by a different food, are ordered by different manners, and are not governed by the same laws".

"You speak of . . .", said Egremont, hesitating.

"THE RICH AND THE POOR".

This extract from Disraeli's novel *Sybil* written more than 100 years ago illustrates vividly Disraeli's appreciation of the dangers of two nations, one rich and one poor, and indeed it was the creation of the one nation theme that was his unique contribution to the Tory tradition.

Nearly a century later, in

spite of the benefits of technology, we still have "two nations" and it should still be

the main purpose of the Tory Party to create one.

We have two nations where conflict is often more apparent than partnership.

In our cities we are fast developing two nations, the inner city and the outer city, with the inner city suffering from increasing unemployment, increasing crime and deteriorating housing.

In those areas where there are substantial immigrant populations we have two nations—one black and one white.

In housing we have two nations—the council house tenant and the owner occupier—where in town after town there is a basic social divisiveness between the council house estates and the owner occupied estates.

In *The Ascend of Britain* I have endeavoured to suggest policies that should be pursued by the Conservative Party so that over the coming decade much could be done to create one nation in those areas of our society where divisiveness prevails.

There is a tendency to describe these unifying policies as being to the left of the Conservative Party. In reality it is this Tory tradition that is the real defender of individual freedom and of the preservation of the free enterprise system. It is the Tory tradition of evolving policies free of doctrine but directly applicable to modern conditions.

The Conservative task is not

just to defend capitalism but to enhance it. Radical reforms are needed to secure a socially responsible capitalism; under such a system those inequalities which do exist must be seen to contribute to the public welfare and therefore not to be unreasonable.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes must come in endeavouring to obtain a genuine redistribution of capital. We need to return to Jain Macleod's ideal of a capital-owning democracy. The socialist concept of the redistribution of wealth is to take away from the wealthy and thereafter to have that wealth administered by the politician and the bureaucrat, supposedly on behalf of the public at large.

The Conservative approach should be to try to redistribute wealth so that more individual people have a stake in society. This means looking objectively at our existing taxation system and asking whether it is fair and in accordance with the various contributions that are made to our industrial success. Nineteenth century capitalism consisted largely of industrial concerns in which the proprietor and the manager were one, so that the rewards given to successful proprietors were also rewards to the managers. This is no longer the position, for in many industries the proprietor and the manager are not synonymous. Our major industrial concerns have boards of directors who rarely have more than a small stake, if

any, in the company they manage. Our taxation system should be changed so that the rewards of successful management are at least equal to the rewards of successful proprietorship.

We must also examine the nature of the wealth currently controlled by politicians and bureaucrats to see how much of it can be transferred to individuals. In the field of industrial relations for the transfer of the council house estates of Britain to the tenants, and for the improvement of urban life, policies that will be really meaningful to that great majority of our people who live in flats and semi-detached houses and who work in factories and offices and who collectively by their efforts see that a nation fails or succeeds.

Through two centuries the Tory Party has inherited a remarkable tradition, a tradition expressed and valued by Edmund Burke, Benjamin Disraeli, Joseph Chamberlain and Harold Macmillan, a tradition that deserves the creation of one nation, that rejects dangerous doctrines; it is a tradition that Britain needs to turn to today more urgently than at any time in our history.

Peter Wilkes

The author's book *The Ascend of Britain* will be published by Sidgwick & Jackson (6.50) tomorrow and will be reviewed by Hugh Stephenson.

Will Turkey's strategic importance persuade Congress to lift the arms embargo?



Mr. Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil: a wrong approach.

Turkish military, who have to live with the consequences of the arms embargo, have already made it clear to the politicians that they would like to see Turkey's military commitment in Cyprus reduced. More than that the Turkish leadership is now count on the support of the main opposition party in case the problem of Cyprus is solved along the lines now under discussion.

The link between the ratification of the DCA and Cyprus' fate is the Turkish leaders. Mr. Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil, the Turkish Foreign Minister, told me: "It would be the wrong approach for Congress to judge the bilateral relations of the two countries in the context of the development of the Cyprus situation. In fact, this approach is so weak to allow it to do that or look for alternative sources of supply. As a result 'scrapping' is widely practised in the armed forces.

It was in order to remedy this situation that the United States-Turkish Defence Cooperation Agreement (DCA) was concluded in Washington just over 13 months ago. But its ratification, which would have terminated the now partial embargo, was delayed by the presidential elections and held

up by congressional opposition.

However, as one high-placed official in Ankara put it:

"From the moment (President) Carter took over, the clock started ticking away."

The Turkish leaders regard

the changeover in the Washington administration with profound mistrust. They were annoyed by President Carter's decision to send the Clifford mission on a fact-finding tour to help him reassess United States policy in this region.

They now know that as a result of the Clifford report, President Carter, though he is willing to support the total lifting of the embargo, will not ask Congress to ratify the DCA until Turkey, as promised to Mr. Clifford, makes substantial steps towards a Cyprus settlement, after the Turkish election.

Until then the President proposes to increase United States military aid credits to Turkey to about \$225m, which is almost the annual sum of aid placed under the DCA. In this way Turkey would not appear to be taking action on Cyprus under pressure, while the move could also bolster Premier Demirel's electoral chances. It is still uncertain how Congress will react to this compromise.

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Most Nato observers in Ankara agreed that in the long term, Turkey, a country with a six-billion-dollar all-American military infrastructure, has a practical alternative to its link with the United States, even if the DCA is rejected. These observers, however, differ on the nature of Turkey's short-term reaction to a major

Turkey's Western orientation is not "emotional", one Western diplomat told me. "It springs from the practical awareness of where the country's real interests lie. No serious politician here believes in the possibility of substituting Russia for the United States or taking Soviet arms."

Another qualified Western observer suggested that Turkey might, in a short-term outburst for the rejection of the DCA, leave the West, go neutral, turn to the Arabs, or even court Moscow. "They can do unexpected things, like cut the nose to spite the face, especially in a pre-election period. The feeling would be one of being let down by the West which is probably so they might as well turn back to Islam or anyone else."

This would hurt the West, this source explained, because "Turkey is the biggest army in Nato after the Americans, sitting right on the Soviet border and controlling a vital geographical position. The United States contributes the bases in this area and the Sixth Fleet. This creates an entity that is a major element in the world strategic balance. And there is no way to avoid taking this into account."

The Turkish leaders appreciate this line of thought which tallies with their own assessment of Turkey's value to the West. Their main concern now is to convince Washington's congressional sceptics whose price for acknowledging this role for Turkey is her subscription to the revision of the causes of friction that undermine Nato unity in this region.

Mario Modiano

Jubilee promotion, with its replicas of the crown jewels and models of the historic regions of Britain, the Swiss are pushing the virtues of their own national dish, the Swiss roll. They regard this as much maligned in this country, maintaining that the basic sponge and jam variety is only for beginners. This week's speciality rolls are fresh strawberry, chardonnay and mozzarella.

Another change is that he now allows no prima donnas among the aspirants, whereas previously the electives in one plant's stem had control of one instrumental part of the music, it is now entirely a group effort, with the electrical signals from all the plants mixed together.

Plants are sensitive musicians. They give much livelier performances, for instance, where there is an audience about. Heat, sounds and light stimulate them, but sudden shocks—like waving them in their leaves—break them in mid-concerto—silence them completely.

Lifton, who built the improved sound system for the plant band so that they could appear in a feature film made in Hollywood, is next taking the equipment to a musical festival in Zagreb. The London gloriosas and phloridrons will not get a chance to perfect their arpeggios there, though. Yugoslavs are to be invited to bring in their own house plants to play their favourite pieces.

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DR COGGAN'S VISIT TO ROME

Canterbury, Rome, Constantinople, Geneva. Today Dr Coggan sets out to tread the historic quadrilateral of European Christendom. The itinerary is evidence that there is nothing lopsided or out of balance about the Archbishop's management of inter-church relations. Less need this time for the Rev Ian Paisley's men to be out with their placards. All the same, it is the Archbishop's meeting with the Pope which has most significance in the context of ecumenism; partly because the propinquity and interaction of Rome and Canterbury have always been greater than that between Canterbury and Constantinople; partly because in Geneva Dr Coggan will not be consorting with the spiritual descendants of Calvin but with the World Council of Churches and its general secretary, Dr Potter, which is not quite the same thing; and partly because formal machinery exists to expedite a rapprochement between the Anglican and Roman Catholic communions, and the machinery has been working rather smoothly.

One of the fruits of Archbishop Ramsey's visit to the Vatican in 1966 was the establishment of an Anglican and Roman Catholic theological commission charged with the examination of doctrine in dispute between the two churches. With the publication of agreed statements on the Eucharist, on the ordained ministry, and, earlier this year,

on authority in the church including the position of the papacy, the commission has concluded the business that it initially set itself to do.

The three statements of the commission embody agreement of surprisingly wide scope. Not all difficulties have been resolved, especially concerning papal claims, but considering the length of time and the passion with which these fundamental questions have been disputed between the Roman and Anglican churches the ability of the theological commission to come to a common view is almost uncanny. The commission has supplied an important part of the momentum towards unity. If that momentum is to be maintained the Pope and the Archbishop will need to agree some further initiative. But an initiative of what kind?

There appears to be almost no limit to the extent to which ecumenically minded theologians of different denominations are capable of publishing agreement. Theology in the hands of contemporary practitioners is a discipline of limitless flexibility and resource. With the aid of radical reformulation, neologisms and context creation, old sticking points can be erased and new insights introduced to bridge familiar chasms. It is wonderful to behold, but apt to leave non-practitioners stranded or winded, with a dull feeling that their landscape has become

THE SECOND TIME OF ASKING

Nothing which Mr Silkin may say about being satisfied with the deal reached in Luxembourg in the early hours of yesterday can alter the fact that it is substantially the same as the one which he turned down a month ago. When Mr Silkin prevented the EEC from meeting its April 1 deadline for agreeing on a new round of prices for this year, he did so because he wanted a butter subsidy of 20p and the other members of the Community were prepared to offer 8p. In the event he has had to settle for 8p, an insignificant improvement on what he had earlier rejected. The devaluation in the green pound is nearer the figure which the Commission had proposed than it is to the British position of no change. And at the end of negotiations, Britain, which had claimed to be fighting for no increases in prices will actually experience a bigger increase than other Community countries.

Even this, however, understates the extent to which Britain has had to abandon the position with which we began this year's farm price review. In January, it was the United Kingdom's declared intention to use the annual bargaining session on prices to get specific action to bring about a structural reform of the Community's Common

Agricultural Policy. That such a reform is needed cannot be in doubt. Many foods which are covered by institutional prices in the Community are now building up surpluses. The most famous is the "butter mountain", but there are surpluses for beef, for wine and for olive oil, all of which are increasingly costly and require firm action by Community Ministers either to bring down production or to increase consumption.

Nothing in the current agreement will do anything to achieve that. In the debate about getting an extra halfpenny on the butter subsidy, Mr Silkin has abandoned any pretence to be seeking broader reform in the Community as a whole. Gone is the pretence that Britain can veto any increase at all in farm prices unless there is structural reform; that threat cannot be made again. Gone is the belief even that such a structural reform really matters to the British government. Instead, it seems to want to milk the system for as large a subsidy as it can, hoping to play the same game which it suspects other Community members of playing.

The increase in guarantees which has emerged for institutional prices is not, in itself, a particularly large one at around 3½ per cent. If we could hold

down the rate of inflation for everything to 3½ per cent, we should be doing a great deal better than we are doing at the moment. Even food prices are increasing far more rapidly than this in those sectors where there is no common price system. The real weakness of the present agreement does not, then, lie in the details but in its failure to grasp the main issue facing Europe in its farming policy. How can we bring about the transformation in European farming to an efficient structure such as occurred in the United Kingdom many years ago?

The real criticism of Mr Silkin's conduct of these negotiations is that by selling his agreement in return for an extra halfpenny subsidy he has shown that this is an issue which does not really concern him. When Mr Silkin broke up the last round of talks in March, there was understandable cynicism that he was seeking to gain political capital for his party which was facing a by-election at Stechford. The evidence of that result suggests that if this was his purpose he was remarkably ineffective. It is hard to believe that he, or his party, will wish to make great play in tomorrow's by-elections of the agreement which he has now accepted.

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KING HUSAIN RETURNS TO WASHINGTON

King Husain of Jordan's current visit to Washington is part of a series of meetings in which President Carter is trying to get to know the main Middle East leaders personally and to prepare the ground for a resumption of the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference, which has stood adjourned ever since its first meeting in December, 1973. Mr Vance's tour of the Middle East in February has been followed by visits to Washington from Mr Rabin and President Sadat. Next month Mr Carter will meet President Assad of Syria in Europe, and within the next two months he expects to receive both Crown Prince Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the new prime minister of Israel, after the elections to be held in that country on May 17.

In past spins of this Middle Eastern merry-go-round the visit of King Husain has usually been the smoothest and easiest. The *Washington Post* may have revealed part of the reason for this last February when it reported that for the past twenty years King Husain had been receiving a substantial secret subsidy from the CIA—though that would seem a perfectly reasonable assistance for the United States to offer or for King Husain to receive. But that revelation, which was generally understood to come from sources high in the Carter Administration and which the President himself has avoided specifically denying, was bound to make his first meeting with the King a sticky occasion.

A plutonium economy

From Professor John Ziman, FRS

Sir, The correspondence in your columns, begun by Justice's letter of concern (March 31) about the probable threats to civil liberties in Great Britain from a plutonium economy, has rightly ranged over a wide field of other dangers.

It is the particular concern of

the Council for Science and Society to study the social consequences of science and technology. With the Flowers Report here, the Fox Report in Australia, and the recent Keay Report in the USA to inform us, we are in no doubt about the seriousness of this issue.

Those reports are unanimous in warning us that nuclear fission is an

extremely dangerous process, that plutonium is an extremely dangerous substance, that all humans are dangerously fallible, and that it is by no means over-stating the case to describe the deliberate choice of a plutonium economy as a Faustian bargain.

With a commendable sense of responsibility for future generations, the US Administration has decided not to plunge forward down that path. Our own Government still stands at the cross-roads. Justice has asked that no decision should be taken until there has been a full public debate in which all the possible consequences can be taken into account. We agree, and we share Justice's hope that the Government will take the nation fully

into its confidence, and will not commit it (and its descendants) to choices without its full and informed consent.

Having access to expertise in nuclear technology, in energy supply and conversion, and in the other specialist fields which are relevant here, we can go further and express the hope that our Government will follow the responsible and credible lead of President Carter.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. ZIMAN,
Chairman, Council for Science and Society.
R. H. Wills Physics Laboratory,
Royal Fort,
Tyndall Avenue,
Bristol.
April 22.

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Having access to expertise in nuclear technology, in energy supply and conversion, and in the other specialist fields which are relevant here, we can go further and express the hope that our Government will follow the responsible and credible lead of President Carter.

Yours faithfully,
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The good things of colonial rule that Africa should remember

Commuting from London once, I had to overhear a somewhat shrill harangue by a stranger in women who renounced the joys of marriage and family to travel in Africa. I did not intervene. After all, I am no Mary Kingsley (though I thought she had actually found Africa an "escape from a stiflingly dutiful domesticity"). I am merely one whose interest in Africa extends over a period of changes as dramatic as those of the scramble itself must have been—perhaps more so, since although the lines drawn on the map were the outcome of relatively short discussions, putting their consequences into practice was a gradual affair.

Some of us who were young 20 years ago were caught up in the enthusiasm for a new dawn that seems to follow great catastrophes; I do not mean the 1917 Club, but the staid idealism to which Woodrow Wilson seemed to have committed the League of Nations.

Poor innocents, we thought there would really be a new deal for the "populations not yet able to stand by them-selves". The League of Nations Covenant said their "well-

being and development" was "a sacred trust of civilization", and one or two British official pronouncements referred to the principle of trusteeship. When the report of the commission on closer union in East Africa appeared, with J. H. Oldham's splendid exposition of the policies which would have to be adopted to make trusteeship a reality—well, I thought something was going to happen. I had to learn how often governments ask for advice and then disregard it.

In those days, that was called liberalism was still the mark of enlightenment for many people, and it was endorsed by most anthropologists. Malinowski taught us to see the institutions that we recorded as worthy of respect, as responding to the people whose lives they regulated, and as often, better suited to their circumstances than those that administrators wanted to substitute. Granted an element of romanticism in this, it was a useful corrective to the prevalent belief in a single, superior civilization.

But we knew, at least eventually, that too much had been changed for an ideal past to be restored: and the

services as colonial rule brought to it. We did not think that colonial rule in Africa was by definition unjust, but that what weight we carried—which was not much—should be thrown on the side of justice.

If it is true that those who are justly ruled are more content than those who are not, it could, I suppose, be said, that we helped to underpin colonial rule. It is interesting, however, that the territories where development followed the line that we advocated were the first to demand and receive independence, because more resources had been given to education, I cause entrepreneurship had developed, and because there was no entrenched settler interest.

When the dismantling of empire came there was not much for us to say: we did try to counter the wildest allegations of Mau Mau atrocities. The idea that that movement expressed some kind of evil possession which could not be exorcised without confession was shockingly like some of our forebears' notions of witchcraft, but I do not think this was pointed out at the time. And now? Macrosociologists

have taken over the field and interpret the whole world in terms of embattled classes (or if the exploited classes are not embattled they ought to be). Small communities still exist, but it is becoming unfashionable to record anything about them apart from their material poverty.

The question "Are they happier?" has been asked for other reasons than Malinowski's thought it would have been better to "leave them as they are". The only true answer could be, "Some are, some are not". Are we happy when we look at such a country as Uganda today? The end of empire was inevitable, the process by which it was reached more often a matter of peaceful change than is sometimes supposed; the picture of an heroic fight against imperialism has been a good deal overdrawn. African dictatorships do not provide an argument for the insufficiency of racial discrimination; but they may make us think that some aspects of colonial rule did not merit the opprobrium that is the fashionable judgment today.

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Katie Stewart

The sense of your own yogurt

It is sound common sense to make your own yogurt because it can be expensive to buy in large quantities, and once you start to experiment you will find there are lots of interesting ways in which it can be used. You can make your own yogurt with no more than the equipment you already have in the kitchen, but to start off you must buy a carton of natural yogurt. Sterilized UHT milk, like Long Life, gives the best results (handy too because you can always keep a supply in stock), and needs only to be heated to the correct temperature. Bottled, pasteurised milk can also be used but it must be boiled and then cooled to the correct temperature. After the yogurt is added, your mixture only requires to be kept warm until it has reached the right consistency. If you like a thicker yogurt, add a spoonful of skimmed milk powder to the warm milk; and, by increasing the milk solids, you get a firmer set.

To make yogurt

Check that the yogurt used as a starter is at room temperature, not chilled from the refrigerator, and give the contents of the carton a stir to make it creamy.

2 pints UHT milk;

1 carton natural yogurt.

Pour the milk into a saucepan and heat to slightly hotter than lukewarm. A few drops on the wrist should feel hot, but not burning—on a thermometer the reading should be 110 deg F or 43 deg C. Bring pasteurised milk to the boil for one minute and then allow to cool to the same temperature. Whisk the carton of yogurt into the milk, you can use less—two tablespoons if you prefer—but I hate to have any left over. Pour into a china, glass or earthenware bowl—I choose one from which I can serve the yogurt at the table. Cover with a plate and insulate the dish with one or more towels under, around and over to keep it warm. Leave undisturbed for six or eight hours or overnight. You can take a look at it once or twice just to see how it is getting along. Depending on the time of year, I leave mine either near my solid fuel boiler or in the airing cupboard.

To keep yogurt sweet you must put it into the refrigerator as soon as it has set. Not only does yogurt taste more refreshing when chilled but at this temperature the natural bacteria are dormant. The longer you leave yogurt at room temperature, the more acid it becomes and, if left in a warm place long enough, the yogurt will eventually separate into curds and whey. Should this ever happen, don't be dismayed! Just tip the contents of the basin into a muslin bag and hang overnight and you will have a curd cheese which you can season and mix with herbs and a little cream and serve as your own soft cheese.

What I have described may seem a little haphazard but like everything else in cookery, once you get the feel of what you are doing it rarely goes wrong. I am the first to admit, however, that the temperature control that you get with a yogurt-making kit is a great advantage. One in particular that I like and use is the Deva Bridge Yogurt Maker which is rather like a large vacuum flask and the new one-litre (2 pint) capacity size makes a good amount for serving. The kit comes complete with a thermometer, a neat little milk saver, which prevents the milk in the saucepan boiling over, and an instruction book. You really can't go wrong. The kit, costing £7.45 and an extra 75p for postage and packing, is obtainable from Deva Bridge, PO Box No 5 (Dept WH), Stowmarket, Suffolk.

Chilled yogurt takes on a thicker consistency and keeps its nice "set" texture until stirred, when it takes on a creamy consistency. To make fruit-flavoured yogurt you must stir in sugar and a fairly strong

COURT
CIRCULAR

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COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 26: The Duke of Edinburgh and The Prince of Wales, attended by Lord Rupert Nevill and Squardon Leader David Checkers, left Heathrow Airport, London, in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight today for Nice.

Their Royal Highnesses drove to Monte Carlo where The Duke of Edinburgh attended the Variety Clubs International Golden Anniversary Heart Awards Dinner with The Prince of Wales, and will attend the Humastrian Award Dinner of the Variety Clubs International.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this afternoon opened the Inter-Actions' Community Centre and City Farm at Wilkin Street, NW5.

Having been received by the Mayor of Camden (Mr Arthur Souter), Her Royal Highness toured the Centre and unveiled commemorative plaque.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips this afternoon travelled in the Royal Train to Stoke-on-Trent and was received upon arrival by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Staffordshire (Sir Arthur Brym).

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the "Physically Handicapped Wheelchair Dancing at Stoke-on-Trent".

Miss Victoria Legge Bourke was in attendance.

The Queen was represented by the Lord Strabolgi (Captain of The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard) at the Memorial Service for Colonel the Viscount Gough (formerly Captain of Her Majesty's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard) which was held in the Guards Chapel today.

Mrs John Durdale has succeeded Lady Abel Smith as Lady in Waiting to The Queen.

CLARENCE HOUSE

April 26: Ruth, Lady Fermoy has succeeded the Hon. Mrs John Mulholland, Lady in Waiting to Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 26: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as President of Sadler's Wells Foundation, attended a "Galaxy Performance" by Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet at Sadler's Wells Theatre, in aid of the Building Fund.

The Lady Anne Tempest was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 26: The Duke of Gloucester opened the Construction Industry Training Board Centre in Norwich this morning, and was later entertained by the Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Raymond Frostick, at the City Hall. In the afternoon, Her Royal Highness visited the Castle Museum, Norwich, and the International Motor Museum at Banham.

His Royal Highness travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

April 26: The Duke of Kent, as Patron, today attended a Luncheon given by the Army Ski Association at the Royal Overseas League on the occasion of the retirement of General Sir Roderick McLeod as President-in-Chief Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

April 26: Princess Alexandra this afternoon opened a Women's Mobile Screening Clinic which is to be operated by BUPA's mobile centre, built by the Stobart Foundation at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Her Royal Highness, Patron of the Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, was later represented at a Reception given for representatives from the voluntary branches throughout the United Kingdom at Claridge's. Miss Morna Mitchell was in attendance.

Princess Alexandra, patron of the Ernest Read Music Association, will be present at a concert for children, given in honour of the Queen's silver Jubilee, at the Festival Hall on May 7.

A memorial service for Viscount Radcliffe will be held at the Temple Church, Temple, London, EC4, on Monday, May 30 at 4.30 pm.

Moore, Mr John, of New Barnet, £147,174

Law Report April 26 1977

Singapore fails in Slater case

Ex parte Singapore Republic Government

Before Lord Justice Shaw, Mr Justice Nield and Mr Justice Snicker

The Government of the Republic of Singapore failed in an ex parte application for leave to apply for an order of certiorari to quash the decision of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mr J. F. Barracough discharging James Derrick Slater from custody in relation to allegations of conspiracy to steal and to cheat and defraud. Reasons for their Lordships' decision will be given later.

Mr Slater's discharge on allegations of publishing a false statement as a company director and conspiring fraudulently to induce persons in his position was not included in the application.

The Singapore Government sought Mr Slater's committal to custody to await his return to Singapore under the Fugitive Offenders Act, 1967; or for Mr Barracough with a direction to order Mr Slater's return; or for the court to be remitted to Mr Barracough or another magistrate for re-hearing and determination according to law. The grounds of the application were that the magistrate had erred in law and acted without jurisdiction and that errors of law appeared from his oral judgment of which the Divisional Court was provided with copies of notes made by the magistrate's clerk and compared by her with his rough notes.

Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, Mr Alexander Irvine and Mr David Lloyd-Jones for the Singapore Government; Mr John Mathew, QC, and Mr D. Tudor Price for Mr Slater.

Mr Mathew said that Mr Waterhouse's submissions (*Ex parte*), April 26, that there was error of law on the face of the record were totally misconceived. There was no error, and certainly no clear error, which would make the record bad.

As to the suggestion that the clerk's notes of the judgment showed that the magistrate would not be bound by his rough notes, Mr Mathew said that Mr Waterhouse's submissions (*Ex parte*), April 26, that there was error of law on the face of the record were totally misconceived. There was no error, and certainly no clear error, which would make the record bad.

As to the suggestion that the clerk's notes of the judgment was confused about the law to apply, namely, Singapore rather than

Forthcoming marriages

Mr L. C. Baring and Miss C. M. E. Tongue

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Leslie Baring, of Durban, South Africa, and Caroline Margaret Elliot, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tongue, of Besserton, Gloucestershire.

Mr P. L. Embitt and Miss J. L. Rawlence

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Leslie Baring, of Durban, South Africa, and Valerie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tongue, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

Mr J. R. Murray and Mrs V. M. Lomas

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Leslie Baring, of Durban, South Africa, and Valerie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tongue, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

Mr T. S. B. Philpot and Miss E. Devereux Massey

The engagement is announced between John, eldest son of Captain and Mrs Leslie Baring, of Durban, South Africa, and Valerie, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Tongue, of Sunninghill, Berkshire.

Mr A. D. Richards and Miss S. E. Johnston

The engagement is announced between Alan David, son of Mr Richard, Richmond, Surrey, and Sarah Edwina, daughter of Mr E. A. Johnston, CB, and Mrs Johnston of Pembroke Villas, Richmond Green, Surrey.

Mr P. D. Webster and Miss A. P. Atteridge

The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs B. Webster, of Worcester, and Angela, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. H. Atteridge, of London, SW5.

Mr C. R. Wilson, RN and Miss J. Wats-Jones

The engagement is announced between Charles Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Richard Wilson, of 52 Bentinck Park Road, Bensfield, and Juliet, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Vyvyan and Mrs Wats-Jones, of St Thomas's Rectory, Chesterfield.

Mr V. Doukakis and Miss J. K. Chamberlain

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Michael and All Angels, Withyham, Sussex, between Mr Vassilis Doukakis, son of Mr and Mrs Constantine Doukakis of Athens, and Miss Joanna Chamberlain, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Paul Chamberlain, of Motte Down, Groombridge, Kent. The Rev Peter Scott officiated, assisted by Father Seraphim of the Greek Orthodox Church.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Karen, Sophie, Pryor, Tamara Hall, and Patrick and Harry Chamberlain. A reception was held at the home of the bride.

Marriages

Mr S. G. Cannon and Miss S. J. Tinsley

The marriage took place on St George's Day at the Church of St George, Bisham, between Mr Stuart Cannon, elder son of Mr and Mrs G. Cannon, of 100 Dyke House, Swanage, Dorset, and Miss Shelia Tinsley, only daughter of Mr and Mrs G. T. Tinsley, of Croft Cottage, Barton Road, Hoylake, Wirral. The Rev Derek E. Tinsley officiated, assisted by the Rev S. E. Elickor.

Mr Doukakis and Miss J. K. Chamberlain

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Birthdays today

Professor Muriel Bradbrook, 68; Sir Martin St. John Charles Broughton, 68; Lord Browne, 78; Professor G. S. Graham, 74; Sir Robert Hall, 73; Lord Heseltine, 69; Sir Tom Hickinbotham, 74; Air Marshal Sir Ronald Less, 67; Sir Harry Melville, 69; Sir Alfred Norris, 68; Miss Sheila Scott, 50; Lord Taylor of Gryfe, 65.

Latest wills

Miss Mayrie Hollond, of Cambridge, left £125,385. After personal bequests she left £10,000 to Girton College, Cambridge, and the residue to Trinity College, Cambridge.

Mr William Alderson, of Colne, Lancs, cloth broker, left all his £1,044 estate to the Cancer Research Campaign, Colne.

Other estates include (not before duty paid): duty not disclosed: Gaze, Mrs Emma, of Ross-on-Wye, £22,820

Moore, Mr John, of New Barnet, £147,174



Four MPs with original caricatures of themselves, which have appeared on the cover of "The House Magazine", were presented at a reception at Westminster yesterday. They are (left to right): Mr Jack Ashley (Labour), Mr George Thomas (the Speaker), Sir Keith Joseph (Conservative) and Mr David Steel (Liberal). (Diary, page 16)

Luncheons

Lord Mowbray and Stourton

Lord Mowbray and Stourton, chairman, entertained at luncheon at the Savoy Hotel yesterday officers and members of the council of the Primrose League before the annual general graduation meeting.

There were present:

Lord Newby, Mr John Stourton, Lord

Johnston, Mr John Stourton, Mr

Johnston, Mr Julian Riddell, Lady

Roberts, Mr John Stourton, Mr

Johnston, Mr W. L. Cross, Mr

Johnston, Mr Peter Jackson, Mr

Johnston, Mr John Stourton, Mr

</div

Firm at the close

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5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
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CONSTRUCTION
SERVICE

Parsons attacks Drax indecision and plans 1,600 redundancies

By Malcolm Brown

C. A. Parsons, the Newcastle-based electrical engineering company announced yesterday that it is to make 1,600 employees redundant. It placed partial responsibility for the cut-back on the Government.

Dr Robert Hawley, managing director of the company, blamed prevarication over the ordering of the Drax B power station as a contributory factor to the company's decision. "If Drax were to go ahead soon we could reconsider the situation", he said.

Yesterday's announcement would appear to increase the attractiveness to Sir Arnold Weinstock of suggestions that GEC should take over the C. A. Parsons part of the Rayrole Parsons group. Sir Arnold, managing director of GEC, is saying nothing about discussions he is having with the Government, but is believed to think Parsons is overextended.

In a statement, Parsons said that redundancies would start on August 5 and continue until the end of 1978.

Substantial manpower reductions had already taken place by natural wastage, the company added, but the continued delay in placing the Drax order and the lack of expected export orders meant that a critical position had now been reached.

Dr Hawley said that during the past two years the company had made it abundantly clear to the Government, the Department of Industry and the Department of Energy, that the Drax order was needed to preserve skills in the North-east in readiness for the recovery in the export market and an upturn in the home market.

"All in all, the Government has a responsibility to bring Drax forward to preserve the skills we have here. There is still no firm commitment to go forward with Drax, and Parsons has already waited many months before being forced into this unfortunate step."

Dr Hawley made it plain the while aware of the GEC takeover plan, Parsons, which acknowledged the need for re-

structuring of the industry, was in favour of a national company.

This alternative, which is favoured by the Parsons unions, would involve GEC and Parsons taking equal stakes in a national turbine generator company and the National Enterprise Board taking a 20 per cent stake.

Meanwhile, in an unusual move the Rayrole Parsons board issued a checklist of requirements which any buyer of the turbine generator business would have to fulfil.

Noting that press reports had suggested that Rayrole Parsons had agreed to dispose of C. A. Parsons, the statement said that such reports were "speculative" because no negotiations had taken place. "They are incomplete in so far as they do not mention the conditions on which Rayrole Parsons would have to be satisfied before any such sale could be considered."

Demands laid down by Rayrole Parsons include "acceptance by both management and labour", as stated in the think tank report on the future of the power plant manufacturing industry; fair security of employment between the respective manufacturing units; recognition of the technology at Parsons; the placing of the turbine generators for Drax B with Parsons, and the payment of a reasonable price for the business.

Rayrole Parsons has consistently maintained that it will cooperate in the restructuring of the industry provided that the interests of employees and shareholders are protected and has offered to consider participation in a national turbine generator company on the lines envisaged for the boiler industry", said the statement.

This is a pointed reference to the likely changes on the other side of the industry where Babcock and Wilcox and Clarke Chapman are now conducting talks on a possible agreement. It is thought this agreement could take up to another two months to reach. But it might well form the basis for talks with the NEB over forming a national boiler company.

Mr Varley asked to delay Hitachi venture

By Peter Hill

Mr Varley, the Secretary of State for Industry, has been asked to delay for at least six months decisions on plans by the Japanese Hitachi company to establish a colour television assembly plant in the United Kingdom.

The electronic consumer goods sector working party, one of many committees involved in work on the Government's industrial strategy, wants time to enable the working party to draw up a strategic plan for the industry so that the Government could reach a policy decision.

There has been strong opposition to the Japanese company's plans from domestic television manufacturers. Both employers and trade unions are united against approval being given to Hitachi in view of the substantial overcapacity which exists in the industry.

At the end of this week members of the electronic consumer goods working party and the electronic components working party (one of five industrial sectors singled out for priority treatment under the industrial strategy) will meet Sir Peter Carey, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, to discuss the issue.

Sir Peter, who was recently in Japan, has taken a keen interest in the Hitachi venture, and particularly the implications of its recent link with a television tube factory in Finland.

Tomorrow manufacturers and trade unions in the television and components industry will meet MPs in London to step up their campaign against the Hitachi project.

But earlier this week there were indications that the Government might approve the Japanese company's plans, subject to Hitachi meeting tough conditions on the purchase of components from United Kingdom companies and the proportion of home and export sales.

Japan's shipyards: Japan's shipbuilding industry, whose aggressive marketing and price cutting tactics have led to strong protests by European shipbuilders, yesterday revealed that total ship exports in the fiscal year to the end of last month had amounted to over 6.3m tons gross compared with nearly 5.4m tons in the previous year.

By David Blake

Economics Correspondent

British school leavers pushed up total unemployment in Britain at the middle of this month; but the number out of work among adults remained virtually unchanged.

Unemployment excluding school leavers was 1,269,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis (5.5 per cent of the workforce), up 1,100 on the previous month.

The small increase after improvements in two previous months brought new encouragement to the Government, whose forecasts suggest that the level of joblessness is likely to go on rising throughout the year.

Unfilled vacancies are increasing slightly, continuing the favourable trend which seems to have existed since October.

The latest figures are made particularly difficult to interpret because of the sharp increase in the number of school leavers registered as unemployed. At 50,353 the total is up by 19,000 from March because of school leavers at Easter. They pushed up the figure for the United Kingdom to 1,392,250. This was 8,778 above the total for March.

At 5.9 per cent the unemployment rate is the highest for April since the war. The Easter contingent of school leavers will be joined by a much larger group in the summer which is

likely to boost the crude unemployment figures significantly.

But for adults unemployment has come down by about 11,500 as industries which laid off workers during the winter, such as building, picked up again slightly. It is only after seasonal corrections have been made to the figures that adult unemployment shows a rise during the month to mid-April.

However the details are interpreted, it is clear that during the past few months unemployment has not continued to increase at the rate of around 10,000 a month which was being recorded in the latter part of last year.

Some of the credit for this should probably go to the workings of the Temporary Employment Subsidy and other job protection and creation programmes. But these measures may now be coming to the end of their greatest effectiveness and this could mean renewed upturn in the unemployment rate in the months to come.

Uncertainty about whether or not unemployment will rise is a great deal more pleasant than being sure that it will go up. However, government officials have been seeking explanations why unemployment does not seem to be rising at a time when industrial production is not showing any significant growth

School leavers push up jobless total

By Peter Hill

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realized assets, owns the Wine-food group responsible for a significant part of Italy's wine production.

It is also said to hold the capital of the Albarola company, the owner of a luxury holiday centre near Venice and the Amigas plastics company of Trieste, near Milan.

The customers had fiduciary accounts under which the bank trades in its own name with their money and at their risk.

The risk began to reveal itself 12 days ago when Credir Suisse announced the company—without naming it—was in difficulties and the bank could lose up to 250m francs (about £60m) as a result of the transaction.

The public prosecutor said the offer standby credit did little to stop Credir Suisse shares sliding 10 per cent down on the Zurich exchange during the day.

The public prosecutor in Chiasso, whose money slipped into the coffers of Texon could be 75 per cent of it back immediately if Texon owned it.

The rest was held back on the orders of Swiss authorities to meet any claims for tax or negative interests.

This did not mean Credir Suisse wasleeping in with an offer to pay out 1,500 francs (£400m) immediately. The stress was on bank side of Texon, which was money slipped into the coffers of Texon could be 75 per cent of it back immediately if Texon owned it.

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Wilson team postpones decision over City report

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

Financial Editor
Sir Harold Wilson's City Committee has still not decided whether to go ahead with plans for an interim report later this year on its central theme, the provision of funds for industry.

Yesterday's meeting of the Committee, its third since it was set up by the Prime Minister in response to left-wing calls for banks and insurance company nationalisation, was largely inconclusive.

This was partly because several important submissions, notably those from the Confederation of British Industry, the Stock Exchange, the Bank of England and the Accepting Houses Committee, have not been delivered despite the pre-Easter deadline set by the Committee.

After its second meeting in February the Committee decided to ask ten leading bodies whether they could submit preliminary evidence on the subject of industrial investment funds within two months.

At the time many felt that this was an impossibly stringent deadline, and for some it quickly became clear that this was so. Moreover, while the Wilson Committee asked for evidence urgently with the idea that this could be amended or withdrawn later, some institutions have been unwilling to make their views known on this basis.

Certainly, the Stock Exchange and the Accepting Houses Committee, which represents the interests of 17 leading City merchant banks, felt that any views they put before the Committee should be fully considered and able to stay on the record.

The Stock Exchange, which now aims to deliver its views on funds for industry, is considering whether its submission should be published almost at the same time as it is delivered to the Wilson Committee in early June.

Mr Tim Cohen, director general of the Accepting Houses Committee, said yesterday that it was unthinkable that the AHC should try to produce an "off the cuff exercise" on a vitally important subject, particularly since it was representing the views of 17 banks.

Nevertheless, yesterday's meeting of the Committee was able to discuss several submissions, notably those from the clearing banks.

The Committee's next meeting is on May 10, but since outstanding sections of evidence are unlikely to be in before the end of June the question of whether or not to produce an interim report later this year may not be decided now until later in the summer.

Since other "providers and users of funds" have been invited to make submissions to the Committee on the so-called stage one of the inquiry, it could be late July, allowing for some further slippage before the Committee is in a position to decide whether it can produce an interim report of any significance by the end of the year.

It is known, however, that the four-strong trade union representation on the Committee, headed by Mr Len Murray, the TUC General Secretary, is particularly anxious that the Wilson team should make an early contribution to the debate on industrial investment.

Financial Editor, page 23

A record year

	1976	1975	Change %
Pre-tax Profits	£1,957,863	£925,618	+ 112%
Earnings per share	7.27p	3.52p	+ 107%
Assets per share	60.04		

Mr Healey hopes London summit will aid world recovery hopes

From Frank Vogl
Washington, April 26

Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, hopes that the summit meeting in London will strengthen confidence in the industrial and financial world, on both sides of the Atlantic, in the probability that the present pace of recovery will be sustained through next year.

The Chancellor told the National Press Club here that there is widespread concern that world economic recovery will not last and that there will be a move back to recession. He hopes that the summit conference will give reassurance that "the world economy is on course".

Mr Healey was confident that agreements in principle would

be reached at this week's International Monetary Fund meeting on the creation of a new facility to strengthen the fund's financial resources, and on an increase in IMF member country quotas.

He said: "We are not a bit worried about the withdrawal of the United States tax rebate proposal in view of current developments in the American economy, and so long as this economy does achieve the 6 per cent real economic growth rate now being predicted by the Administration. But he did not that one of the most difficult problems to be discussed this week and at the summit was how to stimulate further the world economy, while avoiding a new upswing in inflation.

The Chancellor was optimistic about Britain's economic prospects, noting that the inflation rate will be down to 7 per cent by the summer of 1978, that the balance of payments would be in substantial surplus next year and that "we will succeed in negotiating a new pay policy agreement".

In answer to a question, the Chancellor said: "There is no risk whatever of unemployment reaching two million by the end of this year."

He said that the inflation rate is likely to rise in the next few months, but it should start to decline in the autumn, reaching a 12 per cent rate by the end of December and single figures by the second quarter of next year. Real growth in Britain, however, will only be about 1.5 per cent.

The Chancellor was optimistic

In brief

Finance chief advises industry 'invest now'



Lord Seehofer

Companies considering capital investment should take advantage of today's favourable interest rates, Lord Seehofer advised Teesside and District Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

Lord Seehofer, who is chairman of Finance for Industry and its subsidiary Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, a major source of long-term finance for small and medium-sized companies, said that interest rates were unlikely to drop much further, if at all, in the foreseeable future.

But with continuing inflation the costs of installing new plant and machinery would continue to rise. The longer industrial investment was delayed, the more expensive it would become.

Pensions board helps three preserve rights

Last year the Occupational Pensions Board helped three people who retired early to get their pensions, according to the board's third annual report, published yesterday.

In two cases the board co-operated with pension scheme administrators who felt debarred from making the necessary rule amendments until they were ordered by the board to do so; but in the third case, the scheme's administrator declined to make the required amendments, and the board had to make preservation amendments to this scheme on an interim basis.

During the year more than 25,500 occupational pension

schemes were noted as satisfying the requirement of the Social Security Act 1973, that pension benefits should be preserved, bringing the cumulative total since September 1974 to more than 30,000.

Some 3,500 schemes had, by the end of the year, been cleared as meeting the requirement of the Act for equal access to membership for men and women, and 1,000 schemes had been referred back to their administrators because this requirement was not met.

Pensions talks resume

The Conference on International Economic Cooperation (CIEC), better known as the North-South dialogue, resumed yesterday in Paris in an attempt to reach agreement before the ministerial session scheduled for May 30.

Main problems still to be settled include the rescheduling of the large external debts of poor nations, guarantees on commodity export earnings, and the indexing of raw material prices to inflation.

Appointments Vacant

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A hazy line on dividend restraint

In the wake of such large groups as ICI and Rio Tinto-Zinc escaping the dividend control net, it comes as something of a cold douche for those hoping for a more temperate line from the Treasury to find that Shell Transport & Trading has been turned down flat by the Treasury in its application for exemption, presumably on the same grounds as the others that the lion's share of assets and earnings are outside the United Kingdom.

Of course, there is no love lost between the Treasury and the oil companies, given the latter's ability to minimise their tax payments in the United Kingdom and as the Chancellor said in his latest budget the authorities are trying to plug some of the more obvious gaps.

But there is also no doubt that giving the oil companies even more would create far more political difficulties for RTZ for example given the relevance of petrol prices, say, for retail prices.

The fact remains, however, that there still appears no obvious rhyme or reason in the Treasury's rules. On the earnings and assets criteria Shell would be as obvious a candidate as any of those to date. It is perhaps time that the Treasury made its position clear.

J. Bibby Bid talk again

J. Bibby's shares rose 20p to 146p yesterday, making an increase of 30p since they went ex-dividend just over two weeks ago. Rumours of a bid so far seemed to be based more on hope than substance, but should not, perhaps, be dismissed out of hand.

On trading grounds the shares have gone just about as far as they can; the prospective p/e ratio of under five is well below the sector average, but the yield of 6.2 per cent is not far out of line. Bibby has a rather chequered recent record and although profits now look to be on a strong upturn, animal feeds remain dependent, at least to some degree, both on cereal prices and the weather, and there is worldwide overcapacity in seed crushing, which has proved a persistent problem.

There is more to the group than that and it should not detract from the evident management successes, but Tiger Oats and National Milling, the South African group which picked up most of its 30 per cent holding in "Shire" when sold out of its strategic animal feeds stakes year ago, has not had an easy ride.

It has said it will not bid itself (political considerations, indeed, would probably rule it out), but it might prove amenable to approaches now it is showing a profit, while the Bibby family stake of a further 25 per cent or so, may not be so firmly held as once was.

But who would bid? The big food groups with animal feed manufacturers: Unilever, Rank Hovis McDougall and Spillers all look candidates for a monopoly reference. Dalgety, which took Crosfield and Calthrop from under Bibby's nose, is a possibility, while Pauls & Whales and Bibby are much of a size, and Thomas Borthwick, although acquisition, hungry, looks pretty unlikely.

Brooke Bond Second bite

Soaring working capital requirements are forcing Brooke Bond to come back for a second bite at the rights issue cherry in less than 18 months. Nearly quadrupled tea and coffee



Sir Humphrey Prideaux, Chairman of Brooke Bond Liebig: another rights issue this time of £19.8m.

prices since the last funding exercise are largely responsible for the £40m jump in stock levels to more than £150m in the current year while the sharp rise in debentures, too, has only made matters worse.

Having journeyed through the 1975-76 profits upturn with only a marginal increase in net working capital, it is not surprising that the latest pressures have resulted in gross borrowings mushrooming from £78m in the last balance sheet to £111m at present, although this is in overseas currencies which is quite the same danger now that sterling has quietened down.

The sharp rise in borrowings has brought in its train an uncomfortable deterioration in gearing from 41 per cent of shareholders' funds to around 50 per cent at present. The current £19.8m issue will chop this back to a more manageable 40 per cent though with rising commodity prices likely to stick in another £50m or so of working capital a broadening of the asset base is a sensible if not essential requirement.

Meanwhile, the group's earnings forecast for the year of almost doubled pre-tax profits of £48m plus got a little lost in disappointment that the dividend was being raised by only 30 per cent, although it is nearly three times covered, and the shares eased 1p to 49p.

As it is a profits forecast at £10m ahead of outside estimates, it is likely to raise at least two questions in the market's mind, namely the extent to which they have been fuelled by stock options and whether or not Brooke Bond is becoming more dependent on these.

For the moment, however, the group is still in its growth phase while in the six-months to yield is a comforting enough 2 per cent.

Seas.

Balancing

Out

Last year's losses of the United States knitwear manufacturing business of Sears Holdings were greater than expected, at £1.1m of £10m; but gains on the home bound footwear and stores businesses were bigger too, and the net result is a marginal improvement in profits, at £45.3m against £44.7m, ahead of the non-trading items which Sears substantially takes above the line.

However, a £7.2m turnaround here—reflecting the cost of United States closures and exchange exposure on overseas loans—and a tax charge whose giddy proportions (66 per cent) are entirely due to unrealised United States losses, have left the earnings more than 30 per cent down. But that has not inhibited the board from recommending the maximum increase in the dividend, so that the

appeal.

Final. 1976 (1975)

Capitalisation £13.8m

Turnover £90m (£62m)

Pre-tax profits £5.42m (£3.47m)

Earnings per share 7p (5.2p)

Dividend gross 3.55p (3.23p)

shares at 43p (up 3p yesterday) yield an attractive 8½ per cent.

But that is the full extent of their attractions. For assuming that Sears manages to sort out most of its North American problems this year—and despite the closures and some savage restocking, the best the company is committing itself to this time is much reduced losses—that the loss-makers in the engineering division are restored to break-even, and that the betting shops—plagued last year by thin fields and unfavourable weather—recover some of their former shine, the implication is for pre-tax profits (excluding non-trading items) of around £56m, and earnings per share (on a more reasonable tax charge) of little over 5.5p.

Even allowing for more from footwear and the stores division—where Selfridges alone now provides a half of trading profits—the prospective p/e ratio is unlikely to drop below seven. An end-year property revaluation will probably push net asset backlog over 70p a share, but it is still unlikely that Sears will outperform the market in the foreseeable future.

Final. 1976/77 (1975/76)

Capitalisation £19.8m

Sales £79.3m (£71.5m)

Pre-tax Profits £4.27m

(£4.12m)

Earnings per share 3.6p (£3.5p)

Dividend gross 3.55p (3.23p)

TKM

Through the fire

Bad debt provisions in North America, closures in the British textile business and write-downs against a range of problem areas overseas hopefully mark the end of three difficult years for Tozer Kemsley & Millbourn.

Pre-tax profits 56 per cent ahead at £25.42m in 1976 give an altogether too sanguine picture of the past year's trading at TKM. Further "very significant" bad debt provisions have been made to cover the continuing effects of the economic recession in Canada on TKM's trade finance operation there; the problem only reflected in the revenue account in the abnormally high overseas tax charge. Canadian losses, not being off-settable against other trading earnings, are being off-settable against other trading earnings. The tax charge is brought down to an aggregate 48 per cent by tax relief from the United Kingdom company losses.

What so far, has Mr Healey done about it? The tax rate for 1975-76 was 98 per cent and it is no lower for 1977-78.

Oliver Stanley looks at the Finance Bill in the context of tax reform

Another flurry of gratuitous complexities

Tomorrow yet another Finance Bill begins its long parliamentary process towards enactment. By comparison with Mr Healey's four previous contributions, this year's is a slim, elegant volume—50 clauses and nine schedules, a mere coupon by the gross standards which prevail.

We have become so accustomed to annual Finance Bills, which dramatically transform whole chunks of law, that one which "merely" puts tax rates and reliefs down and up—and spreads over "only" 78 pages comes as an anticlimax.

Progress towards this peak is less steep up to the £15,000 income point. From there onwards, and irrespective of whether a pay agreement is reached, the marginal rate remains unchanged at 70 per cent.

The speed of the progression

has been slowed but not the altitude. Nor is the progression scale made any smoother or more logical by this year's changes. In fact, if the basic rate is reduced to 33 per cent there will be an awkward jump from this to a 40 per cent rate at the £6,000 per annum point.

At the other end of the scale—the threshold—Mr Healey gets permission for revaluing personal reliefs to counter about one year's fiscal drag, and he can claim a single achievement at the higher rate threshold point. To counter the total fiscal drag since his first Budget would have been impossible and no permanent solution to the problem seems to be envisaged.

Rough justice

The most urgent need now is for some form of inflation relief to be given against capital gains tax, not simply a tax on inflation. The choice lies between a sophisticated indexation sub-system, with the complexity that implies, or a crude tapering of the rate of charge related to the period during which an asset is held.

The rough justice of the latter may be preferable, as the whole problem has now, it appears, become one for the next Conservative Chancellor, rather than for Mr Healey.

As to the second problem, that of incomprehensibility, every annual Finance Act adds further layers of obscurity, and this year's is no exception. Even the welcome reductions of tax pressure, for example, in the new rules for earnings from overseas work, are so hedged about with provisos and stipu-

lations as to make them almost wholly counter-productive. Here is an iridescent example, one rule among many determining what is a "long" absence:

"Where . . . a period con-

sisting entirely of days of absence from the United Kingdom ('the relevant period')

comes to an end and there have previously been one or more qualifying periods, the relevant period and the (or, if more than one, the last) qualifying period together with the intervening days between the periods shall be treated as a single qualifying period provided that—(a) there are no more than 62 intervening days; and (b) the number of days in the resulting periods which are not days of absence from the United Kingdom does not exceed one-sixth of the total number of days in that period."

As long as the Commons is invited to enact this sort of stuff, no real progress is being made. Moreover, if marginal tax rates were not so high, there would be no need to create more costly and invi-

able anomalies: the application of two or more taxes, for example capital gains tax and capital transfer tax, to one single transaction—for example the gift of property from father to son.

Another familiar trick, performed in this year's Bill, is to introduce a new set of restrictive provisions parcelled up and concealed within a clause which purports to alleviate a problem. This was a feature of the Revenue's original proposals for the "more generous" treatment of overseas earnings—that the required 30 days overseas should be continuous—but that was spurned and rejected by the House of Commons.

There are other transac-

tions where this is so and the result has been to compound confusion. It is so difficult to elicit in all such administrative pro-

cedures, how the board formulates its view. It is under no obligation to give reasons for its decisions and the effect is often that of abuse of powers.

What used to be a reasonable mechanism will now become an impossible one. Soon, we will have a rule that says no relief against tax is to be given, if the sole or main purpose of claiming it is to seek to reduce capital gains.

In his Budget speech, Mr Healey promised to improve the treatment of capital gains by modifying the rules applying to company takeovers, amalgamations and reconstructions. That he is doing, by enacting that it shall no longer be necessary for the bidding company to secure control. It will be enough that it gets one quarter of ordinary share capital.

Slipped in neatly at this point is a new requirement that no deferral for capital gains tax should be given unless the exchange or reconstruction is for "bona fide commercial reasons" and does not form part of a scheme, of which the main purpose is avoidance of liability to capital gains tax, income tax or corporation tax.

The wording is familiar, and so are the additional rules permitting (say, encouraging) application for a clearance, soliciting the Board of Inland Revenue graciously to give its Good Housekeeping Stamp of Approval or not, as the case may be.

Here is the Inland Revenue Department pursuing its age-old crusade at its deepest.

Peter Zentner

Bulgarians thriving under the Russian wing

Bulgarians queue for meat, toilet paper and driving lessons, but they are delighted with their country's progress. Shop windows in Sofia reflect an improved standard of living and, compared with both their Romanian neighbours and their own pre-war lot, Bulgarians are indeed doing well.

Bulgaria before the war was an agricultural backwater. Its main technology was the wooden plough, its industrial imports often labelled "Russian". Under "Balkanisation", under its traditional absurd lengths, proliferating new sub-rules and loading the administration with intolerable burdens.

What so far, has Mr Healey done about it? The tax rate for 1975-76 was 98 per cent and it is no lower for 1977-78.

There is nothing here that can be regarded as simplifying the system and making it easier to move towards self-assessment, in any form. On the contrary, it is the old, familiar, hopeless search for equity carried on to its traditionally absurd

lengths, proliferating new sub-rules and loading the administration with intolerable burdens.

During the present five-year plan, for 1976-80, Bulgaria is concentrating on machine building and metalworking, buses and tractors, electronic and electrical equipment and chemicals. The aim is to increase industrial production by a further 55 per cent.

But all this would not be possible without reliable supplies of Soviet oil and raw materials sold at advantageous rates. In 1974, after the world price of oil had quadrupled, the Soviet Union continued to supply oil to Bulgaria and Comecon at old prices. During the year alone the difference between the Soviet Union's oil earnings in Eastern Europe and the oil's market value amounted to a Soviet subsidy of \$3,000m.

By 1975 Bulgaria had to double the 1974 price, or still half the then going rate for oil. Today Bulgaria pays about three-quarters of the world price.

Although it is never officially admitted, Bulgaria probably buys Soviet raw materials even more cheaply than do other Comecon countries. Bulgaria's standard of living is the least favourable within the Soviet Union.

Almost all unmet Soviet imports have been used to create totally new industries. These new industries could, and can, produce to maximum capacity

rates, already lower than world prices. The words of Georgi Dimitrov, founder of the post-war Bulgarian state—"For the Bulgarian people, friendship with the Soviet Union is just as vitally necessary as is the sun and sun for every living creature"—have some economic substance.

However, growth from a low base, though impressive, is not without its problems. Rapid postwar investment has also been described as helter-skelter industrialisation. There is an immediate need to modernise obsolescent plant.

During the 1976-80 five-year plan, for 1976-80, Bulgaria is concentrating on machine building and metalworking, buses and tractors, electronic and electrical equipment and chemicals.

The aim is to increase industrial production by a further 55 per cent.

However, though wages are still low, by 1980 they should have increased in real terms by 20 per cent.

To buy a car may take two to three years of waiting; to be housed in a new apartment may take much longer. But more goods and services are becoming available—and 1977 will be the first year of colour television.

Although industry has become the cornerstone of the economy, agriculture accounts for 20 per cent of gross national product and 35 per cent of exports. But it is the system of industrialised farming complexes as developed by the Bulgarians which has become a special feature. There are now about 170 industrial agrarian complexes, which start with seed and livestock in the field, and finish with canned vegetables, fruits and meats in the factory on the spot.

The Bulgarians' standard of living continues to improve.

Though wages are still low, by 1980 they should have increased in real terms by 20 per cent.

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Provincial Building Society

Notice to Investing Members

Provincial Building Society hereby gives notice to investing members that the rates of interest paid in all departments will be reduced by 0.80% per annum with effect from 1st May 1977. The differentials on existing Term Shares will remain unaltered. On and after this date new investment monies will be accepted at the following rates:-

	Interest Rate (Income Tax Paid)	Gross Equivalent Yield Before Interest Paid (New Rate from 1st May 1977)	Guaranteed Differential above Paid- Up Rate (New Rate from 1st May 1977)

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

MY Dart takes the highroad as all sectors prosper

By Ashley Drucker

All three divisions contributing to MY Dart, the sports equipment, packaging materials and pyrotechnics group, lifted interim pre-tax profits from £118,000 to £716,000. In the half to January 1 turnover improved from £4.64m to £6.5m. In the preceding full year profits were £1.1m or turnover of £10.6m. The directors declare a second interim dividend of 9.8p, gross against 6.3p.

In the opening stretch all three operations produced an improvement in turnover and profits, says Mr Sydney Marks, chairman. The exception was distribution of sporting goods to retail and similar outlets both in France and in the United Kingdom.

Research continues to play a major part in the activities of the pyrotechnics division. Some "highly interesting" developments are in hand and a business development manager appointed to assist in marketing.

Less than a year ago high market hopes of a successful outcome for Lesney Products to take over MY Dart were dashed. One of the factors was

energies. In line with this, the group has just completed arrangements to buy the assets of a concern in Belgium making badminton shuttlecocks. The machinery is being transferred and installed in this country.

In the last full year direct exports of sporting goods were just on £3.5m, an rise of £800,000. In packaging, which is making excellent progress, attention is being directed on assisting exporters by supplying high-quality tailor-made packaging.

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Mr Sydney Marks, chairman of MY Dart.

that MY Dart, substantially the creation of Mr Marks himself, who keeps a large personal holding, decided in the end that independence was preferable.

Mr Marks, chairman of MY Dart, has been instrumental in the expansion of research and development, besides increasing the territories covered, is the chief focus of the board's planning and

Sudden sell-off of Eurobonds

International

arranged a 3,000m Swiss franc (about £666,000) support facility for Credit Suisse caused concern as it was not known whether the facility was being made available to prevent a run on the bank or to cover the bank's losses in unauthorized transactions. —AP Dow Jones.

Australian setback

Australian business suffered a setback in trading and profits during the quarter ending in March, according to a survey

by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and the National Bank. The decline, which partly reflected seasonal factors, is expected to be followed by a partial recovery in the quarter ending in June. —AP Dow Jones.

American Express

American Express reports record first-quarter net earnings of \$50m (about £29.3m), a gain of 54.9 per cent over the \$32.3m in the first quarter of 1976. Meanwhile it is not applying for a listing on the New York Stock Exchange. The market value of American Express shares exceed those of any other issue traded in the United States over-the-counter market.

Wall Street

New York, April 26.—The stock market was mixed at the New York Stock Exchange close, abandoning an attempt to gain after a series of three straight sharp losses.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 1.1 per cent at 915.62, after a total of 10 points in the three previous sessions.

Declining issues outnumbered gainers 735 to 605. Volume totalled 20,440,000 shares, down from 20,440,000 on Monday.

Analysts attributed a modest rally to a long-term trend and to some long-debated issues. They said the market continued to be dominated by concern about inflation.

Active also was Phillips Petroleum, which rose 1.1 to 54 after declining 4% Monday.

Bodycote to resume growth this year

By Kay Maughan

For in 1976, textile group Bodycote International is confident of renewed profits growth this year.

The group, whose pre-tax profits rose slightly from £2.07m to £2.21m last year, is expecting continued export growth to combine with the benefits of a substantial capital spending programme.

Capital spending amounted to £1.8m last year. Though a further £1.3m was required in additional working capital, net cash outflow was only £750,000.

This was funded from short-term deposits held at the beginning of the year.

Mr David Wigglesworth,

managing director, reports early

indications that a recovery may have started in world demand for printed polyester fabric on which the gravure-transfer printing division depends.

Bemrose poised for recovery in demand

By Richard Allen
Bemrose Corporation, Derby-based printing, packaging and publishing group, is well-placed to take full advantage of a general upturn in the economy, according to Sir Max Bemrose, chairman.

The group, whose pre-tax profits rose slightly from £2.07m to £2.21m last year, is expecting continued export growth to combine with the benefits of a substantial capital spending programme.

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Mr David Wigglesworth, managing director, reports early indications that a recovery may have started in world demand for printed polyester fabric on which the gravure-transfer printing division depends.

BRUNTONS

COLD WORKED STEELS • Wire • Drawn Sections • Strip • STEEL WIRE ROPES

"EIGHTH successive advance in net earnings and dividends"

reports Mr A S Wood, Chairman

Comparative results	1975	1976
	£000	£000
Net earnings	823	1,169
Net total dividends	456	502
Dividends per share (gross)	8.77p	9.65p

• In our Centenary year we achieved a record pre-tax profit of £2.34 million compared with £1.89 million in 1975.

• A second interim dividend of 3.508p per share net will be paid on 28 April 1977, making a total of 8.708p net—the maximum permitted.

• The year began with high hopes of a rise in the world demand for steel products but when it came it was short-lived and the tonnage sold in the full year was about 15% lower than the record years of 1973 and 1974.

• During the year new plant was installed in the Wire Mill and Strip Mill at a cost of £1 million. The programme is continuing with expenditure of £3 million already authorized for 1977 and this will be added to during the year.

• Despite the continuing low demand for steel products the aggregate tonnage sold in the first quarter was 5% up on the corresponding period last year. It is not possible to make a forecast for the current year, but it is felt that the company will succeed in obtaining at least its share of the home market and will be able to stand up to competition in the export markets.

The annual general meeting will be held on 19th May 1977. Copies of the full report can be obtained from The Secretary, Bruntons (Musselburgh) Ltd., Musselburgh EH21 7UG, Scotland.



International Paperboard Packaging

Points from the circulated review of the Chairman, Mr. W. Dennis Grove

* 1976 was a record year with advances of 43% in sales and 63% in pre-tax profits.

* Board Division operated close to full capacity throughout 1976. The major expansion programme was reflected in increased profitability.

* General Products Division completed a successful year with further market penetration and enhanced results. Sales of spirally-wound products made further headway.

* The new product range of half-litre composite oil containers, replacing metal cans, was launched by mid-year, and progress is being maintained. Development work is proceeding on a new composite container for powdered foods and other uses.

* Overseas progress during the first half-year was later reversed with weak market conditions particularly in continental Europe and South Africa.

* Sales and profits to date are ahead of those a year ago and another successful year is in prospect.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1976	1975
	£000	£000
Sales Turnover	24,308	16,985
Profit before Taxation	3,522	2,186
Earnings per share	8.72p	5.97p
Dividends per share	3.21p	2.92p

Copies of the 1976 Report and Accounts are obtainable from the Secretary, T.P.P. Ltd., Rainiley, Cheshire.

Edinburgh placing

Proposals have been approved for Edinburgh Industrial Holdings to increase its share capital by a placing of 2.5 million 12.5p shares at par—compared with over 20p in the market—with clients of A. J. Bekhor, the group's brokers. The extraordinary general meeting "took into account the views of the minority shareholders" and these are now to be offered shares in the placing. There is no restriction on the length of time they can be held before sale.

J. & L. Randall dips

Dealers start on Friday in the £2.5m of 13 per cent Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water debenture stock, 1994, which was offered yesterday. Earnings a share are 7.08p, against 7.58p, while the dividend is 1.22p, gross, against 2.64p for 15 months. Turnover this year is well ahead—thanks to exports.

Water debenture

Dealers start on Friday in the £1.90m of 13 per cent Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water debenture stock, 1994, which was offered yesterday. Earnings a share are 7.08p, against 7.58p, while the dividend is 1.22p, gross, against 2.64p for 15 months. Turnover this year is well ahead—thanks to exports.

Société Générale de Banque

Generale Bankmaatschappij



The Société Générale de Banque has just published its annual report which has been presented to the Shareholders' General Meeting on 26 April 1977

(In Belgian francs)

	at 31/12/1976	at 31/12/1975	+%
Balance sheet total	510,041,808,500	566,842,168,319	+16.1*
Deposits and cash certificates	309,342,753,469	359,389,276,056	+16.2
Bankers' Deposits	144,010,847,729	166,839,524,016	+15.9
Credits to the private sector - provision of funds or signature	273,091,057,461	337,229,532,877	+23.5
Public bills and securities	147,016,838,980	165,720,382,462	+12.7
General overheads excluding corporation tax	13,549,975,762	15,810,251,846	+17.4

The gross cash flow has reached 4,429 million as against 3,451 million in 1975, an increase of 28.3%. After deduction of 733 million in corporation tax as against 625 million in 1975 and depreciation with respect to property, securities and claims which rose from 1,484 million to 2,241 million, net profit amounts to 1,454 million as

against 1,362 million in 1975.

The Board of Directors proposed to the General Meeting that a net dividend of BF 189 be paid on the 4,995,477 existing shares as against BF 175 net the previous year on the 4,162,888 old shares and BF 43.75 net on the 832,579 new shares.

STRIKING DEVELOPMENTS IN 1976

Foreign Trade.

Participation in the conclusion by Belgian firms of important contracts for exports to Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

Credits for supplies of Belgian capital goods and engineering services to Algeria, France, Yugoslavia, South Korea and the USSR.

Management or co-management of important international credits notably to Poland, Greece, Iraq and the Ivory Coast.

International Issues.

Management of three loans representing a total of 80 million US dollars.

Co-management of 42 issuing syndicates entailing a total sum of 1,900 million US dollars.

Participation in the placement of 181 issues representing a total of 7,200 million US dollars.

Subsidiaries and representative offices.

Sustained activity by subsidiaries and representative offices throughout the five continents and extension of

the international network with the opening of new branches, notably in France and Brazil.

Opening of a representative office in Tehran.

EBIC.

Enlargement of the means of action of some of its affiliations held in conjunction with its partners in European Banks International (EBIC) : European Asian Bank, Banque Européenne de Crédit (BEC) and Euro-Pacific Finance Corporation.

Planning, with the American authorities, of a procedure for restructuring the two European American Banks in New York in order to regroup the two entities in a single bank holding company.

Setting up in London of the European Arab Bank Limited, a subsidiary of European Arab Holding.

Techniques.

Active participation by the bank in setting up the network of the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT) for data processing in relations with foreign banks.

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COMMODITIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Coffee sales plunge in US as prices rise

New York, April 26.—Record retail coffee prices in the United States of about \$4 a pound depressed demand sharply in recent weeks and one major roaster has suspended buying green coffee beans, Representative Fred Richmond has said. The sales decline is expected to continue through August, he added.

The New York Democrat is chairman of the House subcommittee on domestic marketing, consumer relations and nutrition and has been an outspoken critic of rising coffee prices.

He said that the heads of two major roasting concerns had told him that retail coffee sales dropped 8 per cent to 10 per cent in one case and as much as 30 per cent in another, during March and up to the last week in April, from a year before.

Officials at General Foods, the Americas' largest roaster, would not comment. However, a source close to Folger Coffee, a subsidiary of Procter & Gamble, the second biggest roaster in the United States, said: "While the information is preliminary and incomplete, we believe there has been a significant decline, industry-wide."

—AP Wire Jones.

Brazil soyabean estimate cut

Washington, April 26.—Brazil's 1977 soyabean output is now forecast at 12.5m tonnes, down 300,000 tonnes from a previous estimate, but 7 per cent above 1976 production, the United States agriculture publication *Foreign Agriculture* said.

The lower forecast reflects dry weather which reduced yields in some areas. Trade sources project production of 20m tonnes by 1983, assuming an average growth rate of 8 per cent annually, it added.

Mr I. Foster new chairman of LME committee

The new committee of the London Metal Exchange has elected Mr Ian Foster, of H. P. Thompson and Sons, and Mr Christopher Green, of Cerro Metals (UK), as its chairman and vice-chairman, respectively.

The new committee, which is responsible for day-to-day management of the LME, took office on Monday but will not hold its first full meeting until May 18.

Including the chairman and vice-chairman, the committee is elected for one year and consists of 15 representatives of ring dealing firms, associated non-ring dealing firms as well as individual subscriber members.

Recent Issues

Charing Cross, 1977
High 100, 1977, 1976
Low 100, 1977, 1976
C. Hoare & Co. 1977
Lloyds Bank 1977
Midland Bank 1977
Nat Westminster 1977
Rossmoor Acc's 1977
Shenley Trust 1977
Williams & Glyn's 1977
7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under, 3.4% up to £25,000, 3.6% over £25,000, 3.7%.

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Age 25+, required for small firm of development consultants. Airport, short/long distance, personal, telephone, shorthand of work essential. Must be conscientious, neat, efficient, attractive. Good office and general atmosphere. bonus available.

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We are looking for a responsible, confidential SECRETARY with good shorthand and a desire to work for one of our directors. You are required to handle incoming correspondence and to keep the office running smoothly.

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SENIOR SEC/PA

£4,000+

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Phone Peter Young
01-491 3305.

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(or telephone 01-870 2144, Mrs. Leggatt)

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each with excellent organisational, typing and dictation skills, capable of assuming administrative duties. A foreign language (French and/or German) would be a distinct asset. Also a

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With a pleasant manner, accurate dictation/typing skills and living in or close to London.

All positions include generous company paid benefits, and are located in pleasant new central offices. Please telephone for appointment.

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WEST END: £3,800-£4,000
Bilingual private Secretary
to General Manager and
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Family firm with worldwide
experience and viable short-
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To work for Senior Partner

in firm of Consulting Engineers. Interesting but demanding position requiring first class shorthand and typing. I.B.M. Executive, plus personality, confidence and tact. Must have previous experience in senior position, be able to hold the fort during Partner's absence overseas. Age group 28-35. Salary negotiable around £3,500.

Please telephone Lis Turner on 01-222 5176 or write to Peter Fraenkel and Pura, 39 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

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SHORTHAND SEC./ P.A. ASSISTANT

Aged 25+

£4,000 + PERKS.

If you consider yourself worth £1,000 and are capable of running a busy office, you'll be acting as P.A. to the Managing Director of a W.I. firm of Chartered Surveyors. Property experience would be an advantage. In property field. Own plush office. Contact Jackie Sparks, GLOBE STAFF BUREAU, 935 2088/531/0725

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Phone Trevor Edwards
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SECRETARY/P.A. PART-TIME

Required by Travel Company

SALARY AROUND £2,000 +

3 days per week: Mon-Wed-Fri, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. approx. within the City of London District. Applicants must have really first-class experience in travel, particularly car rentals. A good deal of the work involved is fluent French or German, an advantage. Occasional Continental travel may be involved.

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A small but rapidly expanding Travel Company specialising in group incentive travel, special interest tours and sales conferences for an increasing number of prestigious client companies requires —

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR: to have responsibility for maintaining and progressing specific existing travel programmes. This will include dealing with airlines, hotels, foreign suppliers and printers, plus a certain amount of client contact. It is hoped that the successful applicant will progress towards more specific fields either in client contact or purchasing.

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SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT: Bright intelligent person, age 20-25, with excellent secretarial skills especially accurate fast typing, needed to complete the office team. The company is progressive and would hope that the successful applicant could advance after one to two years to the job of Group Co-ordinator. Salary £3,000.

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£4,000
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American Bank close to Bank
Station.

£3,900
Secretary shorthand typist,
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for senior partner of legal firm close to Cannon
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£3,500
No shorthand or audio necessary
for Secretary/P.A.,
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International Bank. 2 bonuses per annum.

£3,500
French/English Secretary,
22-28, shorthand in both languages
for Executive, free
lunches and bonuses.

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SECRETARY**
around £3,000 p.a.

Chairman's office needs an
extra hand to cope with the
increasing workload connected
with the formation of the W.H. Smith
Group of Companies.

Duties will include organising
meetings, drawing up
memoranda, dealing with
general secretarial duties for the
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We offer excellent conditions
including pension, profit sharing
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lunches and a
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Please write to:
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For further details ring 01-629 7388

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£3,500-£4,000. We are asked to find a person of many talents for an International Interior Design Co., based in W.I. Skills needed: Bookkeeping to T.B. (if poss.), SH to 80/90, good accurate typing. The financial side could be developed with personal qualities: diplomacy, common sense, and good education.

BOOKKEEPER SECRETARY/ASSISTANT
£3,500-£4,000. We are asked to find a person of many talents for an International Interior Design Co., based in W.I. Skills needed: Bookkeeping to T.B. (if poss.), SH to 80/90, good accurate typing. The financial side could be developed with personal qualities: diplomacy, common sense, and good education.

PA/SECRETARY £3,000 W.C.1.
Senior Partner, dealing in the Commercial/Film World in addition to some financial matters, needs a good Secretary to assist him. Mostly audio, but accurate SH is necessary. A pleasant, willing and conscientious person would help to make his day brighter. Age immature.

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Burrup, Mathieson & Company, situated close to London Bridge and Waterloo stations, wish to recruit an experienced secretary with good shorthand and typing skills and a knowledge of audio to work for their Production Manager.

This is a busy and challenging job, duties of which will include organising meetings and travel arrangements.

Benefits include 4 weeks' holiday, season ticket loan scheme, contributory pension scheme and L.V.s.

Please phone Miss Angela Redman on 01-383 1088, ext. 7 for further details.

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DIRECTOR'S SECRETARY

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Intelligent competent Secretary required by lively International office in West Central area.

In addition to secretarial skills, a liking for figure work in a small company environment and for non-routine duties essential.

Scope for advancement unlimited for right individual.

Write to Box 1122 J, The Times, giving brief personal and business details.

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If you have worked for an airline or within the Travel industry and possess the usual secretarial skills you might be interested in joining the Travel Department of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, working for the Travel Manager. The job involves arranging travel for Government sponsored missions, exhibitions, trade fairs, giving advice and assistance to Chamber members on any travel needs.

Salary negotiable

Please telephone or write for application form 256 3129, LCCI, 62 Cannon Street, EC4

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RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Close Oxford Circus

Ideal for School College leaver. Excellent opportunity in expanding Surveyors' pleasant and friendly office. Good salary.

Ring Kate on 500 4949

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Executive Director of Merchant Bank requires a PA to Secretary to a Chancery and varied job.

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Executive Director of Merchant

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Community, Trade, W.I. seeks

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Assistant Sec. for Sales/Marketing
Divisions, W.I. to 25,000 plus bonus.

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French, German, not essential.

Sec. pos. with Admin., E.C.3.

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PERSONNEL OFFICER

circ. 25-30 yrs

HOME NEWS

TUC willing to talk about renewal of social contract

By Our Labour Editor
The General Council of the TUC yesterday confirmed its willingness to talk with the Government about a renewal of the social contract when the voluntary pay curbs expire in three months.

Union leaders formally approved a minute of their economic committee report on negotiations with the Cabinet, which so far have been held only at an informal level. A timetable for the main negotiations on what should come after phase two have yet to emerge, but the principle that they will talk has been established.

The only criticism on pay policy voiced at yesterday's council meeting came from Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. He objected to clause 17 of the Price Commission Bill, which had its second reading in the House last night, on the ground that it could give an incoming Tory government power to invoke a pay restraint.

The offending clause relieves employers of the legal responsibility of honouring an employee's contract if it gives

him an increase higher than the norm agreed between the TUC and the Government. It has been carried over from previous legislation on prices.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, said: "The Government have made it crystal clear that the whole question of pay is with the TUC and that the Bill can only be read in that context. The Bill in no way preempts the discussions which are going to take place with the Government on what should follow the present pay round."

"There has never been any question of the TUC's giving support to every clause in the Bill because the general council still want to see more action in the prices field by the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection and the Chancellor." There was strong criticism of the Government's "inadequate" record on price controls at the general council meeting, led by Mr Jack Jones.

But Mr Murray added: "It would be quite wrong for anyone to infer from this that the TUC would support MPs voting against the Bill."

Parliamentary report, page 15

Civil Service union may reject phase 3

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Continued pay restraint is expected to be rejected next week by the Civil and Public Services Association, the big civil service union, representing nearly 250,000 of the lowest-paid government employees.

Mr Kenneth Thomas, the general secretary, said yesterday that the association's executive was not attracted by arguments for a phase three income policy. Delegates to its conference would be urged to oppose restraint.

He said most of his members earn less than the national average wage. "As a lower-paid union we need to upset what are regarded as traditional differentials."

The association is likely to be one of the first big votes against the social contract. Mr Thomas said it would not be enthusiastic about productivity bargaining.

The Chancellor had given tax concessions worth up to £10 a week, he said. "Often our members £10 a week and they would be much more interested in the social contract."



Rubbish left outside the refuse department in Richmond, London, in protest at a nine week strike by dustmen, which ends today.

Oil spree warning by CBI chief

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Britain needs a long term industrial strategy and should not pin her hopes on a North Sea oil "bonanza". Lord Watkinson, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said at a Parliamentary Press Gallery luncheon yesterday.

It would be disastrous for the economy if, at the end of a five-year period of riches derived from oil, the country ended up broke, he said.

"If we do not have such a strategy our country is done and finished." It was necessary to work out an agreement on strategy between the Government, the unions and the CBI in such bodies as the National Economic Development Council. No one should underestimate the work or significance of the NEDC, he said.

Government economic decisions should be based on hard

facts coming up from industry, not from the Treasury computer.

The Government should avoid excessive squabbling from industry, such as the one that blew up over the sudden imposition of higher national insurance contributions without previous consultation. It should know what was a "runner" with industry before taking action.

There must be more consistency of industrial policy. "A developed NEDC industrial strategy could provide safeguards against pulling things to pieces every year or so."

In that way industry could produce what Britain desperately needed: higher output and lower inflation; more profits and less underused plant; and, above all, more money for the economy's productive aspects.

Politicians should not make

the assumption, so common nowadays, that as soon as anything began to work it was obsolete.

"So all of us who are in any way involved must not lose our nerve at the critical moment when it is essential to achieve phase three of pay restraint. "There should be a phase three settlement related to the 5 per cent inflation level that we must attain next year."

"But this settlement must begin to pave the way for the radical reform of collective bargaining which we set out in *The Road to Recovery*.

"We want a firm undertaking by the Government to see that, where it is the ultimate paymaster, the limit will be kept."

Over the rest of the economy a method of more flexible bargaining within company and plant pay limits could then be adopted, the limits being broadly related to those set by the arbitrators.

Mr Watkinson said: "The big success of the Government's industrial strategy would remain, and that would need to be tackled by far-reaching government measures, he said.

He had continually emphasized the importance of youth unemployment in his colleagues abroad, and he hoped the Downing Street summit conference would provide some international assessment of the

success of the Government's industrial strategy.

Mr Watkinson said he was greatly concerned about the level of youth unemployment in Britain, which he felt would present difficulties for several years.

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